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LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
439,000

No 63,187

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1988

(30p)

Pope meets 'Pik' Botha in surprise South African visit

Shoot-out as police storm hijacked bus

Police in Maseru stormed a bus in which gunmen held 71 pilgrims just after the Pope arrived in Lesotho

● The Lesotho Government believed the hijackers belonged to a guerrilla wing of a banned political party

● Four people were taken to hospital. The gunmen had demanded to meet the Pope and King Moshoeshoe

● The Pope's plane had landed first in South Africa because of engine trouble and fear of involvement in the hijack

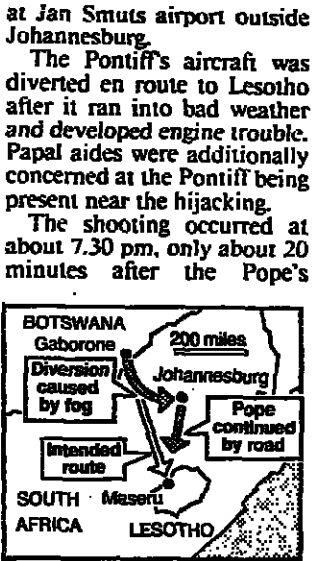
From Michael Hornsby in Maseru, Lesotho, and Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

Police seized control of a hijacked bus in which 71 pilgrims had been held hostage shortly after the Pope arrived in the Lesotho capital of Maseru last night.

Shooting erupted around the bus and minutes later a photographer said that he saw police board the bus, searching it with torches.

There was no sign of the hostages. Several ambulances, sirens blaring, raced away from the scene. One carried what appeared to be lifeless bodies of three policemen and a civilian, the witnesses said.

The shoot-out came only hours after the Pope declined to kiss South African soil yesterday when he was forced to make an unscheduled stop



at Jan Smuts airport outside Johannesburg.

The Pope's aircraft was diverted en route to Lesotho after it ran into bad weather and developed engine trouble. Papal aides were additionally concerned at the Pontiff being present near the hijacking.

The shooting occurred at about 7.30 pm, only about 20 minutes after the Pope's arrival in Maseru.



Unexpected visitor: The Pope with Mr R.F. 'Pik' Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, after the papal aircraft was diverted to Johannesburg yesterday.

Security alert on Gibraltar as customs hold man with guns

From Tony Dawe, Gibraltar

A security scare swept Gibraltar yesterday as a man tried to enter the colony with two guns while three SAS soldiers were giving evidence about how they killed three IRA terrorists last March.

Special Branch officers of the Gibraltar police were called to the frontier with Spain when Gibraltar customs officers stopped the man. He was charged with illegal possession of a handgun and will appear before Gibraltar magistrates today.

Customs sources said that he had tried to enter Gibraltar in an N registered white Ford Sherpa van with a woman named O'Toole, a teenage boy and 15-month-old baby. They had found a pistol, six rounds of ammunition, a gas gun and tear-gas cartridges.

Late last night, security forces on the Rock were denying the man had posed any threat to the SAS soldiers. They indicated that the gas gun and cartridges were not of the tear-gas type but were used for shooting rabbits.

The man was arrested at lunchtime and there was no apparent stepping up of the already tight security surrounding the inquest when it resumed for its afternoon session in which soldiers B and C gave evidence.

They rejected claims that two of the terrorists were trying to surrender before they were killed.

The soldiers told the Gibraltar inquest into the deaths that eye witnesses may have been confused because they themselves put up their hands immediately after the shooting as police arrived.

The claim was put to the soldiers by Mr Patrick McGrory, representing the families of the terrorists, as the

inquest was given detailed accounts of the shootings by three of the soldiers who took part. They were screened from the press and public but seen by the coroner, jury and the lawyers.

Mr McGrory told the hearing that his case remained that the British authorities had planned from the outset to kill the three terrorists. Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage.

He said the soldiers may not have been ordered directly to shoot the IRA team but the message was clear: "We don't want them to come back."

He told the SAS trooper, who fired the first shots at the

Siege option 5
Leading article 13

terrorists and is known only as Soldier A: "I am suggesting to you that when you went out on the ground that day that killing was in your mind, not theirs."

Soldier A replied: "I went out to arrest McCann and Farrell."

Mr McGrory continued: "I suggest to you that these people put their hands in the air to surrender to you."

The SAS man replied: "They did not put up their hands to surrender because I had not got the warning out. In fact, I had my hands up in the air when the policeman jumped the barrier."

Mr McGrory put the same question to Soldier B who had been alongside Soldier A as they fired at the two terrorists. The lawyer asked him: "Whether they were alerted by a police siren, whether they were alerted by a shout from A, whether they were alerted

Continued on page 24, col 1

WIN £206,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● With no winners of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3), the Portfolio Accumulator rises to a new high of £206,000. Prices: page 31

THE TIMES PRESSPASS

STUDENT DISCOUNT PLAN

● Today The Times launches PRESSPASS, the most far-reaching student discount scheme ever.

It will offer the chance to buy the newspaper half-price to anyone studying full-time at a British educational institution — plus a range of other discount offers worth more than £60 a year.

Details: page 3

INSIDE

Arafat pledge

A Palestinian state would have a "right of return" for all Palestinians, Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, said in a Times interview. Page 8

Crisis point

The graduate crisis now approaching will challenge recruiters to compete for the best talents, says an introduction to today's nine pages of appointments. Pages 33-41

TIMES FOCUS

Britain's poorer regions are seizing their chances for redevelopment, says a Special Report. Pages 17 to 20

INDEX	
Home News	2, 3, 5, 6
Overseas	25-32
Business	44-48
Sport	16
Arts	15
Births, marriages, deaths	21
Books	15
Church	27
City diary	14
Crosswords	22, 24
Degree courses	30
Diary	11
Entertainments	22
Features	10, 12
Health	22
Information	13
Leading articles	13
Letters	14
Obituary	10
On This Day	12
Science Report	10
Television and radio	23
Weather	24

Family death may have provoked Cuban envoy

By Nicholas Beeston and Michael Evans

The Cuban commercial attaché expelled from Britain after firing shots in a London street yesterday that an attempt to coerce or persuade a hostile intelligence agent to swap sides would not be carried out solely on the basis of a single approach in a London street.

Operations of that nature took several months.

The involvement of M15 officers indicates that they

clearly one of many visits to try and persuade Senor Perez to defect. Sources said yesterday that an attempt to coerce or persuade a hostile intelligence agent to swap sides would not be carried out solely on the basis of a single approach in a London street.

Operations of that nature took several months.

The involvement of M15 officers indicates that they

fore," said the businessman, who asked not to be named. "He was different from the previous occasion. This time he seemed extremely nervous and very upset. He volunteered the fact that his stepson had died."

He described Senor Perez as very pleasant and diplomatic, but a man who seemed out of his depth in London and who did not speak good English.

"I am naive," he said. "Of course it could have been a cover. I never suspected him of being a spy. We only discussed routine business matters."

With the knowledge that his wife had just lost her son, Senor Perez may have hesitated before making a decision which would have led to their indefinite separation.

Yesterday a spokesman at the Cuban embassy in London confirmed the death of Senor Perez's stepson in Havana.

In Whitehall yesterday the Cuban affair was being treated as a past event. The Foreign Office declined to give any further details of the case.

First drop in crime for five years

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The first fall in crime over a 12-month period since 1983 was welcomed by Ministers and police yesterday.

Recorded offences dropped by 0.6 per cent in the year to June compared with the corresponding previous 12 months. Burglary was down by 6.5 per cent.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said: "Burglary has now been falling for over a year. This suggests that crime prevention can and does work against property crime."

And Mr Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, saw the drop in burglaries as a success for neighbourhood watch and crime prevention campaigns.

Mr Hurd said news of the overall fall was "worth two cheers. We need to see more figures like this before we can be sure of a permanent downturn."

He was concerned about

increasing violence and sexual offences but he suggested that some of the rise may be due to more people reporting these offences.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, blamed much violence on what he called "the Saturday night lager cult."

Tougher use of penalties was called for by Mr Eastwood.

Offences of violence rose by 17 per cent and sexual offences by 16 per cent.

Lawson warning of inflation rise

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, last night gave a warning that tomorrow's inflation figures will show a "significant increase," and that another jump in October was on the cards. But he stressed that this was just a temporary blip and that action had been taken to bring it under control.

In a speech to the East London Conservative Group at Hornchurch, Essex, Mr Lawson said that amid all the concern about overheating demand in the economy, people had forgotten about the dramatic improvements on the supply side.

"Today's figures show manufacturing output at an all-time high and growing fast — up 6½ per cent on a year ago," he said.



Mr Lawson: "Figures just a temporary blip."

Mr Lawson was speaking shortly after figures were published showing a 2.5 per cent jump in manufacturing output.

● Midland Bank has pushed up its mortgage rate to 13.2 per cent, a rise of 1.6 percentage points. The decision follows the move by Barclays to 13 per cent and the TSB to 13 per cent for endowment mortgages and 13.2 per cent for repayment mortgages.

Output surge, page 25

How Britain can cope with a burnt-out satellite

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Chief constables have been warned by the Home Office to prepare for the "remote possibility" of the rogue nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 1900, crashing on Britain about the first week of October.

A circular issued yesterday reminds police chiefs of advice in the standing guide on contingency measures for an accident to spacecraft carrying nuclear material.

The trouble is that scientists will have only 12 hours to make an accurate calculation of the last orbit of Cosmos 1900 and estimate where it might crash.

Local authorities would not be equipped to protect the population

from falling debris but there should be enough time to alert the emergency services to radioactivity and for the police to broadcast public safety warnings.

The chance of the UK being directly affected by disintegration of the satellite is about 1 in 2,000, according to government's advisers. The Home Office said: "If the safety systems operate, the satellite will present no radiation hazard and should mostly burn up on re-entry. But it is conceivable that some non-radioactive fragments may reach the Earth's surface."

If the safety systems did not operate, radioactive contamination could be contained in a single area or spread over a very wide area, it said.

According to the circular issued

yesterday, "almost all inhabited parts of the world are potentially at risk from its re-entry and the UK is neither more nor less at risk than any other part."

"Although highly unlikely, some large pieces of debris might have radiation fields of significance over distances of the order of 100 metres and some limited evacuation might be necessary."

Cosmos 1900 was launched on December 12 last year. It belongs to a family of Russian spy-in-the-sky spacecraft called Rorsats (Radar Ocean Reconnaissance Satellite) that carry powerful electronic scanners to monitor American and Nato naval vessels.

A nuclear reactor supplies about 10 kilowatts of electrical power to drive

the radar system. The Rorsats have a short life because they operate in low orbit 270 kilometres above Earth; 30 have been launched since 1967 on missions lasting about four months.

The danger from Cosmos 1900 began on April 10 when Soviet operators lost contact with it. The ground controllers attempted a manoeuvre in which the reactor should have been separated from the vehicle before being boosted to a fixed higher orbit for the next 600 years.

Under those circumstances Cosmos 1900 could crash safely back to earth, most of it vaporizing in the upper atmosphere. When an earlier Rorsat, Cosmos 954, crashed in 1978 it sprayed molten radioactive debris in northern Canada over an area 1,000 km long by 120 km wide.

JEFFREY ARCHER'S 'SMASH HIT' PLAY

TONY BRITTON

GWEN WATFORD

BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

JEFFREY ARCHER

RAYMOND HUNTLEY

THEATRE

QUEENS THEATRE

NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR

NEWS ROUNDUP

Meacher protests at YTS accidents

The risks to life and limb run by young people on Youth Training Scheme courses have reached "nightmare proportions", Labour said yesterday.

Fatal and serious accidents on the scheme rose by 27 per cent in the first three months of this year, according to Mr Michael Meacher, Opposition employment spokesman. He accused the Government of being "more concerned to get young people off the dole register than to safeguard their life and limb". The accident rate had soared to 149.4 per 100,000 trainees compared with 117 last year.

The Training Commission rejected Mr Meacher's claims as "absolutely untrue". With the number of trainees in placements around 400,000, the total number of serious and fatal accidents had risen slightly from 143 in the last quarter of 1987 to 150 in the first quarter of 1988, then fallen back to 129 in the second quarter.

"They certainly do not show a percentage increase by any stretch of the imagination."

Carrier crushes car

A 14-ton armoured personnel carrier with a learner driver at the wheel ran over a car yesterday, seriously injuring a motorist. The caterpillar tracks of the Army vehicle crushed the Ford Escort in the crash at a crossroads on the A325 at Bordon, Hampshire. The motorist, suffering head injuries, was taken to the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot. The personnel carrier was on a routine driver instruction course, heading back to its base at the School for Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon.

Deaf delay 'appalling'

The parliamentary ombudsman has condemned "appalling and quite inexcusable" delays by the Department of Social Security in the appeals of two deaf people. Mr Anthony Barrowclough upheld complaints by Mr Jimmy Aitchison, of North Tyneside, and Mr Ivor Barlow, of Wolverhampton, members of the British Deaf Association, who appealed over their local authorities' refusal to provide special telephones. Both were delayed more than two years.

Children's radio back

BBC Radio Four is to revive the spirit of *Children's Hour*, 27 years after it was killed off. Although *Cat's Whiskers* is a mere 30 minutes and on Sunday evenings only, the BBC yesterday said it was the return of children's radio. The decision to make six 10-week series in the next two years, to be broadcast during term time, comes after an experiment during the school holiday when *Cat's Whiskers* was seen to have beaten the rival, *Pirate Radio Four*.

No Cleveland penalty

No discipline is to be taken against two social services officials involved in the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis. A working party set up after the publication of the Butler-Sloss report earlier this year criticized the roles of Mr Michael Bishop, the county council's social services director, and Mrs Sue Richardson, child abuse consultant. However, the council's social services committee said after a meeting yesterday that disciplinary measures would serve no useful purpose.

Charity criticized

A Kenyan who has just completed an 800-mile walk across Europe to raise funds to save the threatened black rhinoceros complained yesterday that he had not received the support he expected from the British branch of the Worldwide Fund for Nature. Mr Michael Werikhe said: "I feel the fund could have done much more to get the message across to its members". Mr George Medley, chairman of the UK branch, rejected the complaint. Three members of staff had worked full-time on the project for three weeks.

Thatcher to stress UK independence to European leaders

EEC moves on unity rejected

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is likely to ruffle the feathers of Continental leaders next week by using her tour of EEC states to emphasize Britain's continued independence within Europe.

Ministers expect Mrs Margaret Thatcher to take the opportunity to make it clear that her Government will have no part of moves towards European political and monetary union.

In a key speech in Belgium on Tuesday, she will reject the European Commission's efforts to make greater economic cooperation inseparable from a gradual shift towards federalism. The Prime Minister is likely to

argue that the Single European Act, which pulls down non-tariff trade barriers in 1992, should not be regarded as paving the way towards the erosion of national sovereignty.

While strongly backing the creation of a single market, she will make it clear that she intends that Britain should continue to exercise its traditional freedoms in areas such as taxation and domestic social policy.

In particular, she will repudiate the vision of pan-European unity outlined by M Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission. M Delors, an outspoken French socialist, is fast becoming a bogey figure within the Prime Minister's inner circle.

She has already dismissed as absurd

his prediction that within 10 years 80 per cent of social and economic decisions would be made by the European Community and not by national parliaments.

But she has been further nettled by his address to the TUC in which he said that it was impossible to build Europe solely on de-regulation of markets and outlined plans for strengthened workers' rights throughout the Community.

Nor has it escaped her attention that the Labour Party and the trade unions are rapidly abandoning their traditionally hostile stance towards the EEC as they come to recognize that it offers them a means of diluting Thatcherite policies at home. Trade

unionists meeting in Bournemouth gave M Delors a standing ovation and there are now many on the left who see the social democratic ascendancy on the Continent as a bulwark against modern Conservatism.

Mr Neil Kinnock in a speech in Glasgow last week said the free-market implications of 1992 should be tempered with changes such as much more European-wide social concern, increased health and safety legislation and anti-trust moves against mergers and monopolies.

Mrs Thatcher appreciates the value of concerted European action but she and other senior ministers are becoming increasingly concerned about the direction the Community is taking.

Post Office dispute

Strikers get noon deadline

By Roland Rudd and Ronald Faux

Postal union officials were warned yesterday to negotiate an orderly return to work by noon today or face the possibility of an imposed settlement.

Most staff returned to work yesterday. However, key sorting offices, including Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Perth and Hull, voted to remain on strike.

Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director of the Royal Mail, was angry that what had started as a 24-hour stoppage in protest at supplementary payments to recruits had escalated into a national stoppage over the contentious issue of casual labour. The issue would not subside because local agreements on how to deal with the backlog of 150 million letters had not been reached.

Mr Cockburn said: "There is a strong desire to reach an agreement on the use of temporary labour. But when applying it on the ground, it takes two to tango. Local union representatives must operate on the same basis. In the final analysis, if they fail to do so by noon today we shall take stock of the situation."

Asked if that meant management might have to impose an agreement, Mr Cockburn said yes. He said local branches still on strike could cause extensive disruption.

Mr Alan Tuffin, general

secretary of the Union of Communication Workers (UCW) blamed the impasse in some of the big cities on "macho managers" who refused to negotiate within national guidelines.

In Manchester, where more than 2,500 postal workers voted against expectations to continue the strike, Mr Tony Rupa, a UCW official, accused management of failing to negotiate. He said: "Management insists that they should set the number of casuals required from day one of a return to work and that there should be no negotiation. This is not acceptable."

Mr Bill Hayes, secretary of the UCW in Liverpool, where members voted unanimously to stay on strike, accused management of lying over the use of casuals. Another mass picket is planned for this morning outside the Copperas Hill sorting office, Liverpool, the scene of clashes between pickets and the police last week.

Mr Derek Molloy, chairman of the Liverpool branch strike committee, told workers the Government and the Post Office management were the militants in the dispute. "They are attempting to smash this union in order that they can have an easy sale of the Post Office."

While Mr Tuffin accepted that Liverpool was an excep-

tion in refusing to accept casuals at any price, he reiterated his warning that the national agreement could break down if Mr Cockburn carried out his threat to impose local settlements.

Mr Tuffin is adamant that his union will not accept imposed settlements, which is the real issue at the heart of the strike. He is not against remuneration payments for postal workers in areas with staff shortages, or against the use of casual labour, provided there are negotiations.

In Glasgow, workers voted to continue the strike after failing to reach agreement on overtime payments.

● Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, told industry leaders yesterday that in his opinion the Post Office had failed in the past two weeks to provide a reliable and price competitive service on which its letter monopoly depends.

In remarks to the ruling council of the Confederation of British Industry, he emphasized that he regarded the monopoly as a privilege, not a right. The dispute had caused "serious damage" to Post Office customers. Sir Bryan said he anticipated the backlog of mail would be cleared in the next fortnight. However, problems in some areas would last into next month.



Postal workers in Liverpool voting unanimously to stay out on strike yesterday over the issue of overtime payments.

Cubans show up the role of MI5

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The Cuban shooting incident in west London has highlighted the role played by MI5 in keeping watch on the activities of Communist envoys based in London.

Senior Carlos Medina Pérez, expelled from Britain, is a member of the highly trained Cuban intelligence organisation, Dirección General de Inteligencia (DGI).

It was formed on KGB lines and has Soviet officers holding high positions within the organisation.

So it was inevitable that the Watchers of MI5's A branch should keep an interest in him. The administrative office for the Watchers teams is housed on one floor of a tall building in north-west London. They work from behind blast-proof net curtains.

The Watchers themselves are based in a number of MI5 premises. Manpower is limited, so the task of mounting 24-hour surveillance on all the known hostile intelligence agents is impossible.

The normal method is for a team of four to travel in a car following a target.

If the agent makes a sudden run for it, two of the MI5 Watchers immediately follow on foot, leaving the two others in the car to call back-up if necessary.

The use of women is not uncommon, especially in covert surveillance operations, teaming up with a male colleague and pretending to be a normal couple walking on the street.

There was a woman in the car following Senior Medina Pérez.

The KGB and their satellite agents have learnt all the tricks in the counter-surveillance business.

They have been known to use decoy cars to confuse the Watchers. A car packed with Russians will leave the trade delegation and drive around London, hotly pursued by the MI5 car. The intelligence agent who wants a clear run will then leave quietly and go about his business.

On one memorable occasion, a Soviet intelligence officer dressed up as an English country gentleman to try to deceive MI5.

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Focus on

British
TELECOM

1988

Family doctors blamed for missing signs of stress in caring relatives

One in 20 elderly abused at home

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

One in 20 elderly people are likely to be abused, sometimes fatally, by the relatives with whom they live, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Mervyn Eastman, acting deputy director of social services in Enfield, north London, said that families were frequently driven through stress to hitting or neglecting an elderly relative living with them.

Elderly people were admitted to accident and emergency wards with bruises and broken limbs after physical abuse and in a few cases pensioners had been battered to death, usually by their spouses.

Mr Eastman, speaking at a conference in London held by the British Geriatric Society, blamed family doctors for missing signs of stress within potential abusers who attended their surgeries and, as a consequence, failing to alert either social services or the geriatric health services.

He claimed that up to 500,000 old people were at risk of abuse from their sons and daughters.

A recent study in the London borough of Bexley had found that 5 per cent of elderly people in contact with social

services had experienced some kind of abuse, ranging from force-feeding to physical assault.

A typical abuser was a middle-aged woman who was also caring for another member of the family. "Abusers are ordinary people who want to care but get trapped and worn down and can see no end in sight", Mr Eastman said.

"The public find it difficult to come to terms with the fact that old people in families are at risk, for the same reason that they had a problem with child abuse in Cleveland. It is too close to home."

Abuse of the elderly was not on either the public or the government agenda. In the past 10 years there had been no academic studies and no Government department had taken the issue seriously.

However, the problem was likely to get worse as the number of elderly people in Britain increased. The over-65 population was expected to rise from 10 million to 13.5 million by the year 2025. About six million elderly people were now being cared for by a relative at home.

Mr Eastman defined abuse as being "when a disruptive or

fear of kidnapping is so strong among the international business communities that one in three American executives is estimated to have insurance cover against abduction, a former FBI official told an international police conference in London yesterday (Stewart Tendler writes). Many companies had contingency plans for kidnapping crises, Mr Thomas Sheer, assistant director of the FBI until earlier this year, told the International Police Exhibition and Conference. Speaking at a seminar on high-profile crime, Mr Sheer said analysts believed more than 90 per cent of abductions outside the United States in the 1970s were successful. During that period, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela and Italy became high-risk areas. Ransom demands had ranged from a tractor to

\$14.2 million. "Kidnapping business executives for ransom, or extorting millions from firms by threatening to abduct, offered the terrorists the best of both worlds. Their political aims were furthered by the publicity and funds were provided to support their activities", Mr Sheer said. In the 1980s, a domestic form of terrorism by the contamination or threatened contamination of food and medicines had developed. The poisoning of Tylenol doses in 1982 introduced "a terrifying twist in criminal activity". Recalling products could cost up to \$80 million and could incite other threats. In the year after the Tylenol case, there were 133 incidents of tampering and another 741 complaints which were investigated.

restrictive situation reduced the quality of life and involves the misuse of power". That would include force feeding, depriving someone of food or water, administering inappropriate drugs or depriving someone of prescribed drugs, sexual abuse, involuntary confinement, restraint using straps, and intimidation or humiliation.

He said that abuse was often triggered by some behaviour in an elderly person which made their younger relative lose control, and was generally precipitated by "intolerable stress". "Most carers have been to their GP to try and tell them

that they are potential abusers, but often do not want to admit it", Mr Eastman said.

Family doctors were busy people and, because of that, were often unable to pick up coded admissions and intervene to prevent tragedy.

He called on both the medical profession and social services to do more to identify abuse and, if necessary, ensure that the victim is transferred to a place of safety. He made it clear that abuse also occurred in private and local authority accommodation.

Recorded crime decreased in England and Wales in the year to the end of June by 0.6 per cent compared with the

corresponding period up to June 1987 (Peter Evans writes).

The figures represented the first reduction over a 12-month period since 1983, according to Home Office statistics published yesterday.

The fall of 23,000 crimes compares with an average increase of 5 per cent a year between 1980 and 1987, but there was an increase in crimes of violence, particularly sexual offences.

Crime figures are down in all the metropolitan areas for the first time since 1975, with decreases from 7 per cent in Merseyside to 0.6 per cent in West Yorkshire. The reduc-

tion was 1 per cent in London.

The main reason for the fall overall was the 60,000 fewer burglaries in the 12 months to June 1988. Burglaries in homes fell by 6.6 per cent and in other buildings by 6.3 per cent.

Over the same period, there were 25,000 fewer thefts of motor vehicles, also representing a fall of 6 per cent. Decreases were also recorded in theft from the person (5.9 per cent) and from shops (5.7 per cent). Other theft and handling stolen goods were down by 0.5 per cent. The total number of thefts declined by 0.3 per cent.

However, violence against the person increased by 21,800, a rise of 17 per cent, while sexual offences increased by 3,800, a rise of 16 per cent. More than a thousand extra robberies, a rise of 3 per cent, were recorded.

Fraud and forgery rose 6.5 per cent and criminal damage 0.7 per cent. Offences of going equipped for stealing rose by 19.4 per cent.

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, *Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police in England and Wales - Second Quarter 1988* (Statistical Department, Home Office, Lunar House, Croydon).

Half-price deal for students

STUDENT DISCOUNT PLAN

A discount plan for student readers of *The Times*, offering the opportunity to buy the newspaper at half price, is launched today.

The scheme, to be known as Presspass, is open to all full-time students at universities, polytechnics and colleges. Sixth-form pupils are also eligible to take part.

Presspass will provide students with vouchers allowing immediate 50 per cent savings on the cover price of *The Times* at the point of purchase. The vouchers may be traded daily or weekly.

The unique discount plan will provide participants with savings of £50 a year off the cost of their daily newspaper. Further bonuses are

planned to make the offer even more attractive.

The Editor of *The Times*, Mr Charles Wilson, said: "I am confident that Presspass will introduce many thousands of young people to *The Times* and I am equally confident that reading *The Times* will remain a lifelong habit".

Presspass is the biggest student discount programme yet offered by a British newspaper.

Full details of the scheme have been sent to all educational institutions.

Exhibitions, at which students can join the scheme, are also planned for university fresher fairs.

Captain jailed for 18 months over rugby 'thuggery'

By David Sapped

A rugby team captain found guilty of assaulting an opponent was jailed for 18 months yesterday. It was believed to be the longest sentence yet imposed for an on-field offence by a sportsman.

Steven Lloyd, aged 27, left the dock at Bristol Crown Court in tears after being convicted of causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Steven Oakley, the opposition winger, in a match on St Valentine's Day last year.

Lloyd, an electrician, had denied kicking Mr Oakley in the face after he was brought to the ground by a fair tackle.

Recorder Christopher Clarke said Lloyd appeared to regard rugby as a "licence for thuggery". One witness with 20 years' experience of the game said the attack was the worst he had seen. Another said he had reacted with "absolute horror".

Mr Rex King, for the Rugby Football Union, said: "Because of the gravity of the case it is probable an inquiry will be held at national level. The committee has the power to ban him for life if it sees fit. This is the longest jail sentence we can recall."

Lloyd, of Elmcroft Crescent, Horfield, Bristol, who is married with a son and another child expected in November, was found guilty of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm with intent.

The match, in which Dings Crusaders, which he vice-captained, played local rivals Bishopston, degenerated into a brawl and three players were sent off. Lloyd had kicked the

rival winger while he was on the ground, fracturing his cheekbone and putting him in hospital for three days.

The judge said: "In my view you committed a vicious, barbaric act. Your action could have caused him brain damage or permanent physical disability. You brought disgrace not only on yourself, but on your rugby club. You have shown no remorse for your action." Mr Richard Bromilow, for the defence, said that Lloyd had been an enthusiastic player since he was 15. He was a keen, active player and administrator for his club which held him in high esteem.

"In a few short seconds in the heat of a plainly hotly contested rugby match, this young man has thrown away his good character and the respect in which he is held".

The judge said the sentence was the least he could pass and was lighter because of the mitigation. The court heard that Mr Oakley had made a full recovery.

Dr Jonathan Bayly -- an apology

On August 26 we reported a complaint that Dr Jonathan Bayly of Stroud, Gloucestershire, had refused to visit a baby with symptoms of meningitis. We accept that this serious allegation was untrue, since the doctor was away on holiday at the time. Furthermore, his practice did not refuse to visit the child, who was seen by a doctor and was promptly sent to hospital. We apologise to Dr Bayly, his colleagues and their staff for our report.

Gatwick runways blocked

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Gatwick airport came to a halt at the peak of the morning "rush hour" yesterday when both runways were blocked.

Passengers on four flights from the Mediterranean landed many miles from their intended destination and airline schedules were thrown into confusion after 48 minutes when nothing could take off or land.

The problem was caused by a combination of an aircraft bursting a tyre on the emergency runway which is used during the night and the failure of the contractors repairing the main runway to finish as scheduled at 6.00 am.

As engineers battled to overcome the twin problems, aircraft were stacked, and four aircraft diverted, landing instead at Stansted, Luton and Heathrow.

The job of resurfacing the main runway has lasted throughout the summer and is due to end in November. Each night, its lights are dimmed at about 10.30pm and aircraft are instructed to use the adjoining emergency runway.

Virgin Atlantic yesterday joined the trans-Atlantic airfares war with a £99 "no strings" single fare between Gatwick and New York.

Mr Richard Branson, owner of the airline which operates two Boeing 747s daily between Gatwick and New York and Miami, said last night that the price reductions could not have been made without the demand for high price business fares at the front of the aircraft. The fare for transatlantic passengers in the 74 Upper Class seats is £739 one way.

Priest kicked unconscious by motorists

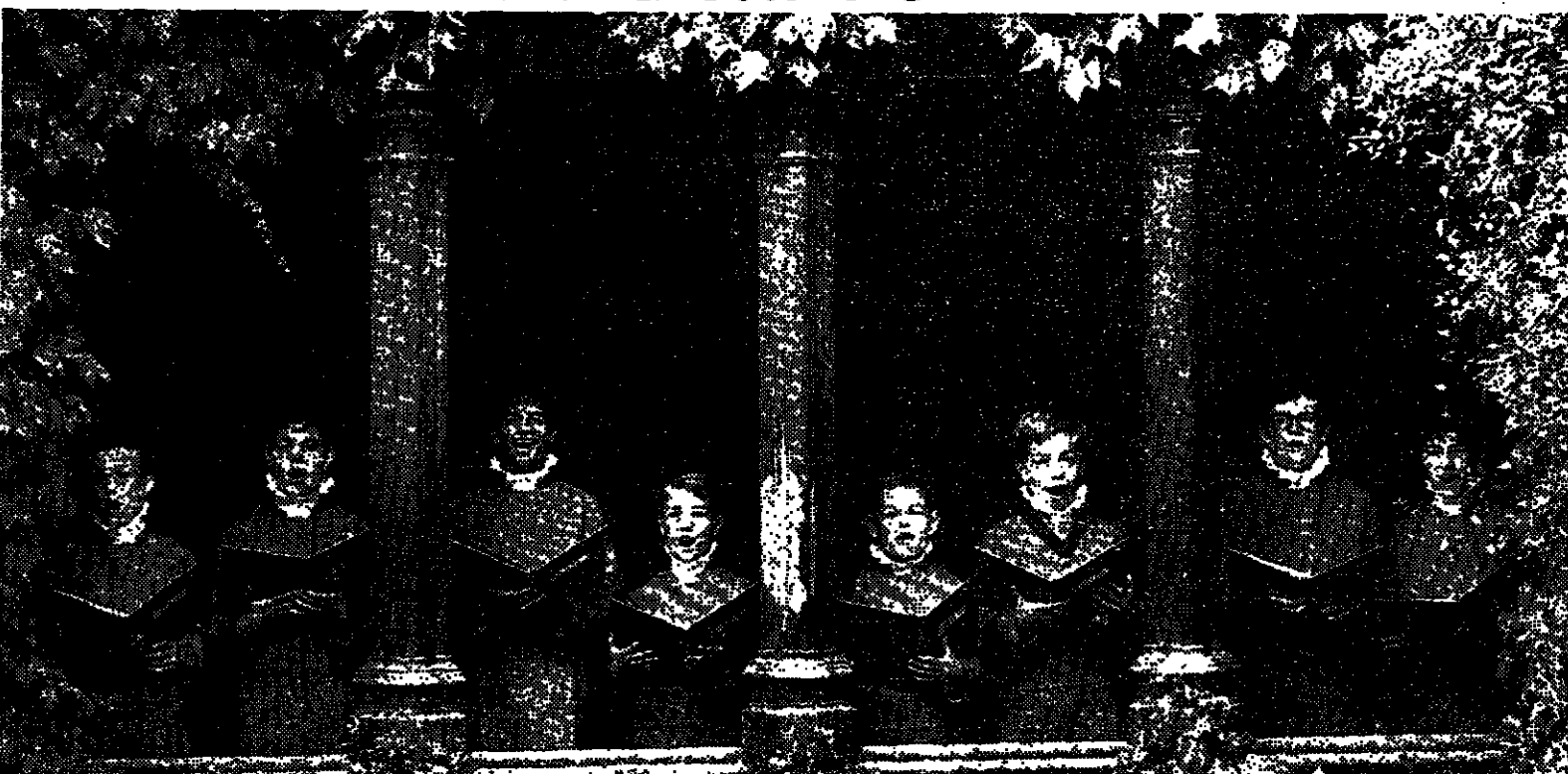
Two men delayed after a girl crashed her bicycle beat a priest who went to her aid.

The Rev David Butcher was kicked unconscious by the motorists, who also punched another man in the face and slashed his shirt with a knife in Cotteswold Road, Gloucester.

Mr Butcher, aged 42, minister of the Elim Pentecostal Church in Gloucester, was yesterday in a satisfactory condition in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital with concussion and a suspected cheekbone fracture.

Police have arrested one man and want to question another about the attack.

Choristers herald start of American tour



Members of the Westminster Abbey choir rehearsing in London yesterday in preparation for their first tour of the United States and Canada, which starts on Monday. The choir, of 16 choristers and 12 Lay Vicars will perform in 12 towns and cities in North America during the three-and-a-half week tour, with programmes drawn from English cathedral music, including pieces specifically associated with Westminster Abbey. It will also sing a selection of twentieth

century music by composers including Britten, Berkeley, Elgar, Harvey and Taverner. The choir gives a pre-tour recital in the abbey this evening.

(Photograph: Marc Pepper).

Working revolution

Telecommuters quit the office

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

A vision of a high-technology working revolution in the near future, when millions of people will abandon offices and work from home, was described yesterday to more than 200 senior industrialists.

The growing trend towards "telecommuting" was, they were told, likely to affect more than four million people by 1995 and turn the country into a happier and safer place in which to live.

The kind of Britain in which we could shortly be living was outlined by Mr Iain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, who said the focus of the "teleworker's" home-based desk would be a small portable computer plugged directly into the telephone socket, through which text and data could be sent directly to another computer within a matter of seconds.

The teleworker's home would be his high-tech castle where all the information needed could be received and transmitted. He might even have a photovideoex system which would scan colour images and transmit them to another monitor where hard copies could be printed out.

From the worker's car, he or she would be able to ring a pre-programmed "intelligent house" where a synthesized voice would, with luck, be able to say there had been no burglaries, fires or burst pipes.

Then, by keying in a number of codes into the car telephone, the house could be programmed to switch off the oven, reset the heating, set the video, draw the curtains and turn on the lights.

Mr Vallance said that possible loneliness of home workers had already been tackled by the establishment of Network Nine - a series of neighbourhood workcentres where they could meet to share ideas and telecommunications facilities.

By that time, he said, the facsimile (fax) machine would really have come of age and the present base of 250,000 users would have risen to more than a million. The machine itself would have shrunk to the size of a telephone directory and be connected directly to a personal computer.

Delegates to the "Tomorrow's Workplace" conference in London were told that the person who "travels to work"

down the telephone line is four times more productive than his office bound colleague. In addition, the conference was told, running a remote workforce could lead to a reduction in company overheads and increased growth and profitability.

According to the Henley Centre for Forecasting, one consequence of millions of people working from home using small portable computers is that the price of a home in London could drop by 15 per cent while houses outside the capital would go up by an average of 50 per cent by 1992.

Mr Bob Tyrrell, managing director of the Henley centre, said that because of the changes, Britain would become healthier and safer. His report, commissioned by the CBI and British Telecom sponsored conference, pinpointed further likely effects of such a revolution in communication.

There would be a boom in computer and fax machines sales; there would be fewer and smaller offices; company computers would replace company cars; and the corner shop would make a comeback.

Puttnam relaunches film company

By Andrew Billen

Mr David Puttnam yesterday resumed his career as an international filmmaker, announcing a \$50 million (£30 million) production consortium that, he said, could revitalise the entire British film industry.

The 47-year-old producer of *Chariots of Fire*, who resigned last year after an unhappy 13 months as chairman of Columbia Pictures in Hollywood, said the relaunch of his company, Enigma Productions, could provide the model for a new beginning for British cinema.

Mr Puttnam has won backing for the Enigma from Warner Brothers, the distributors, County NatWest Ventures, the financiers, Japan's Fujisanki Communications Group, and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB).

Together they have put \$50 million into a production fund from which Mr Puttnam will draw to make at least six films over four years. It will be constantly topped up from the profits of each film. Of seven projects in development, three

have been bought by him from Columbia: *Memphis Belle*, the true story of the crew of an American B-17 bomber in the Second World War; *Gabriel*, a romantic comedy set in Latin America in the 1950s; and *Opera Europa*, a comedy about a multi-national opera company.

None has begun shooting yet but *Memphis Belle* is expected to be the first and might be released by autumn 1990.

Other projects are *The October Circle*, a Soviet political thriller, *Thumbs Up*, about the recovery after an assassination attempt of President Reagan's press secretary, *Fade Out*, about a Czech actress at the end of the war, and *Shackleton*, based on the explorer's ill-fated Antarctic expedition.

Mr Puttnam said: "We shall use British crews but with writers, actors and directors from around the world. I would be disappointed if the films appeared to be self-consciously British." At Columbia he brought down the average cost of a film by nearly \$4 million to about \$10.7

million. He said yesterday he could not imagine spending more than \$20 million on any project. "I am not going to take an ideological position on casting but I will be looking at unknowns as well as the known."

Mr Puttnam told the press that he had learnt two things from his time at Columbia, one of which was not to be too frank at press conferences. The other was: "There is no point in pushing down the throats of distributors films they do not want to show".

Thanks to the new consortium, Mr Puttnam has guaranteed his own distribution system. Warner Brothers will distribute the movies around the world except in Japan, where television and video release will be handled by Fuji.

In Britain, BSB will have exclusive television rights to show the films on its satellite movie channel. Mr Anthony Simmonds-Gooding, chief executive of BSB, refused to discuss how quickly they could be shown after public release.

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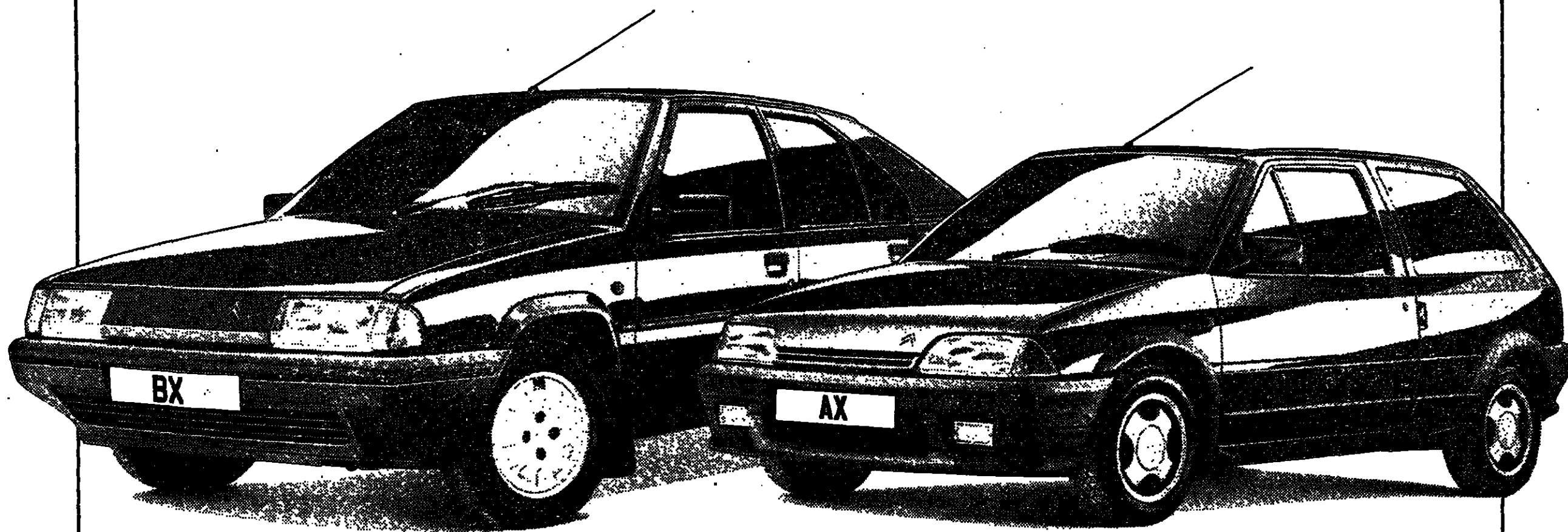
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مركز العمل

Soldier who shot McCann and Farrell tells of other options anti-terrorists discussed

SAS team prepared for siege of IRA bombers

The SAS men who shot dead three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar had prepared for the possibility of a siege, one of them said yesterday.

He told the inquest into the bomb team's deaths that the option was discussed during briefings before the planned operation to arrest them.

The man, referred to as Soldier A, was one of the SAS soldiers who killed Sean Savage, Danny McCann and Mairead Farrell after it was suspected that the trio had left a huge car bomb in the city centre.

Soldier A, under cross-examination by Mr Patrick

were other options that could have happened that day.

"The terrorists had come in with their car and then perhaps gone into a building. Perhaps there may have been a siege situation."

The soldier, one of two who shot dead Farrell and McCann as they headed back towards the Spanish frontier, was giving evidence on the seventh day of the inquest at the tightly secured Supreme Court in Gibraltar. He spoke from behind a security curtain to protect his identity.

On the day of the shootings he was also carrying a radio which operated with a push-button strapped to his wrist and a microphone inside the collar of his light, zip-up summer jacket.

The soldier, who has been in the SAS for 12 years, said other options were also discussed as part of the arrest plans. One involved armed soldiers on surveillance at the border as the terrorists crossed into Gibraltar in a car.

He said McCann, Farrell and Savage were professionals and, after leaving the car and heading for the border, would have been "surveillance aware" — one of them looking over their shoulder every two minutes and also trying to look part of the community.

"They would be looking for other people, looking for people who could possibly be looking at them or following them. I suspect they have been doing that for most of their life," he said.

Soldier A said his original intention was to arrest the IRA gang — he was going to approach them, get as close as possible with no civilians in between and shout: "Stop. Police. Hands up."

He would have taken out his pistol, covered the terrorists as they lay down on their faces while police effected the arrest. Then Savage brushed past him.

Uppermost in his mind was his 100 per cent belief that a bomb had been left in the assembly area for the Army band parade.

Soldier A denied he was lying about the way in which he shot Farrell and McCann.

Mr McGrory asked him about the "astonishing coincidence" that all the terrorists made suspicious movements. "Do you not regard it as an absolutely astonishing coincidence that all of these people did this mad and foolish act when followed by SAS men? Do you not find it astonishing?"

"One can understand the movement of one person being misinterpreted, but do you not find it extraordinary that not only one but three people made the same lethal mistake?"



Mr Pizzarello: Upheld objection from Mr McGrory.

A: "It was not a mistake, sir. I interpreted at that time that McCann and Farrell were actually going for the switch."

from Mr McGrory when Mr Michael Hucker, the lawyer representing the SAS men, took Farrell's shoulder bag and in a side pouch placed a radio transmitter similar to one used before by the IRA.

Mr McGrory asked him why he was not close enough to seize Farrell and arrest her when scientific evidence showed he shot her from about 3ft away or less.

A replied: "Sir, I could not grab her from where I was."

Mr McGrory: "No, from where you say you were?"

Mr McGrory then questioned him about how closely together the bullets hit McCann. "If the bullets are found in McCann's back very close together, that would indicate the bullets were fired repeatedly into him while he was in the same position."

He asked whether it was not a remarkable coincidence that the second round went into McCann so close to the first.

A: "That is what happened, sir."

Soldier B told the inquest he and Soldier A had planned to arrest all three terrorists as they stood chatting and smiling on the outskirts of the town.

"We were to move forward and shout 'Stop, police, hands up, lie down on the floor,'" he said. But Savage split from the group and started walking towards the two soldiers,

brushing shoulders as he passed.

Soldier B thought then of arresting him, but Soldier A, who knew Savage was walking towards the place where Soldiers C and D were hiding, told him to keep going and to go for Farrell and McCann to arrest them.

As they closed in on the two terrorists from behind, he watched Farrell intently and Soldier A watched McCann.

Soldier B was aware of McCann turning round, but did not see the expression on his face.

Suddenly he heard what he presumed was a shout from Soldier A.

"It was the start of a shout... I thought or presumed at that time it was Soldier A initiating the arrest."

"It was the start of a shout and then bang, bang and it was away firing."

Mr McGrory: "Was there a word which was intelligibly spoken?"

B: "No, sir. I don't think so." He opened fire on Farrell because he was convinced she was about to detonate the bomb. But he denied shooting her as she lay on the ground.

He presumed there had been a warning shouted, but in the split second between that and the start of the firing, he had to react quickly.

Mr McGrory: "In terms of a warning to McCann and Farrell, it was pretty useless?"

B: "Obviously they could not understand it."

Mr McGrory: "They might not even have heard it?"

B: "I don't know, sir."

Mr McGrory: "It would be difficult to respond by stopping and surrendering?"

B: "I don't know, sir. These were not normal people, sir."

Firing started on his right. Farrell was carrying a large shoulder bag which she threw across her body.

"With the information we were given — we were told of their ruthlessness and dedication and of the car bomb and all that other information — in my mind she might actually attempt to carry out the detonation of that radio-controlled device," he said.

"Uppermost in my mind at that time, sir, was the lives of the general public in Gibraltar, sir, my comrades and the people in the surrounding area."

"I drew my weapon as the shots started. You must remember, sir, it was all in a split second."

"I switched fire and turned on McCann because I didn't know whether Soldier A had been shot and I perceived McCann as a threat to me and Gibraltar and my comrades."

The inquest continues today.

Leading article, page 13

GIBRALTAR INQUEST

McGrory, the Belfast lawyer representing the families of the three, said he was carrying his Browning semi-automatic pistol and four loaded magazines on March 6, the day of the shootings.

Mr McGrory asked him if it was not "a trifle unusual" for him to be carrying so much ammunition if the plan was to arrest the terrorists.

Soldier A replied: "There

Youth in shooting had been 'robbed'

By Craig Seton

Anthony Haskett, the teenager who killed himself after wounding three youths with a shotgun in a town centre, had armed himself after being robbed, his father claimed yesterday.

Mr Ronald Haskett, aged 43, of Rowley Street, Walsall, West Midlands, said he did not believe his son intended to cause anybody "grievous injury".

Mr Haskett was reading from a prepared statement at an inquest in Walsall into the death of his son, a factory worker, aged 18, who killed himself with his own 12-bore shotgun, after wounding the three youths in Bradford Street, Walsall, in the early hours of Sunday.

Mr Haskett also claimed that police who approached his son in a van during the incident had not given him an opportunity to put down the gun.

He told the inquest: "I believe that my son had had money taken from him on the evening that he died and that he went out armed after this. I have no reason to believe that he ever intended to cause any grievous injury. I believe he was acting in response to what had happened to him."

"I am concerned that the

police van had been driven at my son and actually came into contact with him. I want to know why the police acted in this way. I want to know why my son was not warned."

Dr Norman Gower, a Home Office pathologist who carried out a post mortem examination, said Haskett died from a single wound to the head inflicted with a weapon that was held so close "that the barrel mark was clearly imprinted on the body".

There were also two minor scratches on his left leg which might have been inflicted by contact with a vehicle.

Det Chief Inspector Richard Hopwood, of Walsall police, said 60 people were expected to have been interviewed about the incident by the time the inquiry was completed.

He told Mr Aidan Cotter, the Walsall coroner, that he would not describe the weapon found at Haskett's home as "an arsenal".

None of the weapons, which included a crossbow, an air pistol, a knife and a machete, was illegal. Haskett, a former Army Cadet, had been granted a shotgun certificate when he was aged 17.

The inquest was adjourned until November 18.

Party conferences

Untried delegates raise SDP fears

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Social Democratic Party leaders are worried that their annual conference could prove a lacklustre affair because of the influx of political newcomers since the break-up of the Alliance.

They fear the four-day gathering, starting in Torquay on Saturday, could resemble a seminar rather than a political conference, with two thirds of the voting delegates attending their first such event.

The conference offers the SDP its first media opportunity to prove that it is a fully fledged political party rather than a fan club for Dr David Owen, as it has been branded by its Social and Liberal Democrat rivals.

Mr John Cartwright, its president, expressed that fear yesterday in remarks seen as an attempt to pre-empt criticism of both the style and content of debates and also, perhaps, to ginger up the delegates.

In another blow to its hopes of recapturing some of the political limelight, it was also disclosed yesterday that Dr Owen's speech to the conference on Monday morning will not be shown live on television — because the BBC is covering the Olympic games at that time and will not switch to Torquay until the afternoon. The decision has irritated the SDP hierarchy.

Nevertheless, Mr Cartwright predicted lively debates on education, local government, nuclear power and the economy, but an unusual unanimity on defence.

Mr Cartwright took issue with those in his party urging it to adopt a more aggressive stance towards the SLD.

He said it made no sense at all for the two parties to waste precious resources by engag-

The Scottish National Party today debates the forthcoming introduction of the community charge in Scotland and is expected to re-affirm its opposition on the grounds that the tax is unfair, unjust and is without legitimacy in Scotland. As the party's annual conference began yesterday in Inverness, delegates condemned any plans to dump nuclear waste in Scotland.

ing in a "fight to the finish for the centre ground".

He believed that eventually they would come to some understanding under which one or the other party would step aside to give its rival a clear run in elections.

● Social and Liberal Democrat MPs were urged yesterday to show loyalty to their leader, Mr Paddy Ashdown, and to play their part in his front bench team (Philip Webster writes).

The surprise call, made in advance of the party's first conference beginning in Blackpool on September 24, was delivered yesterday at a press conference to launch the agenda by Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, the SLD president.

He said that the party membership would give short shrift to anyone who tried to rock the boat when they stood at only 10 per cent in the opinion polls.

Mr Wrigglesworth declined to name the MPs he had in mind.

However, it is known that his main target was Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill, who has made plain his reluctance to take a party spokespersonship under Mr Ashdown.

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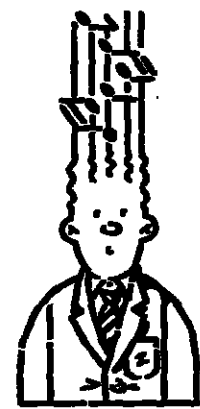
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More to discover

Secrets legislation will 'blunt press role as public watchdog'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Newspaper editors have warned the Home Secretary that the Government's White Paper on official secrets is seriously flawed and will lead to blanket bans on press coverage of vast areas of government life.

The Guild of British Newspaper Editors told Mr Douglas Hurd at a meeting yesterday that the present "catch all" Section Two of the Official Secrets Act would be replaced by blanket bans to which there was no defence.

"All disclosures by former or present members of the security services are deemed to be automatically harmful, even if they tell of non-democratic attempts to destabilize a government as 'Spycatcher' Peter Wright alleged", the editors said.

Mr Michael Corner, chairman of the Guild's parliamentary and legal committee, said that coverage of the Cuban shooting incident this week would have been restricted had the White Paper been law.

"Mr Hurd seems to talk as if this is a liberalizing measure with just a couple of areas of tightening up. We worry whether that is true if you look at the fine print", he said.

The editors said that the

White Paper, which comes against a background of other measures preventing disclosure, would "sustain the climate of secrecy". Together, the measures outlined by the guild in a publication put to Mr Hurd yesterday, amounted to a "pervasive, almost institutionalized secrecy" which was "severely blunting the role of the nation's newspapers as public watchdogs".

The editors, who urged Mr Hurd to include a defence of "public interest" in his proposals, also cited other restrictions they say will apply under the new law.

Disclosures of information held by Britain in confidence from foreign governments or organizations would be forbidden even though they may refer only to EEC trivia.

Disclosures about telephone tapping would be banned, even if there were complaints by an opposition party leader that his home was bugged.

Although the prosecution would have to prove "harm" had been caused by a disclosure, juries would not have discretion to assess "harm" in a number of areas of information because they were automatically classified as "secret". Even a weekly paper's disclosure of the shortage of

police in its area could be illegal because it could be construed as useful to criminals.

The guild asked Mr Hurd to reduce the range of information covered by the legislation so juries would be left to decide if harm had been caused, and to extend the defence that information had been already published.

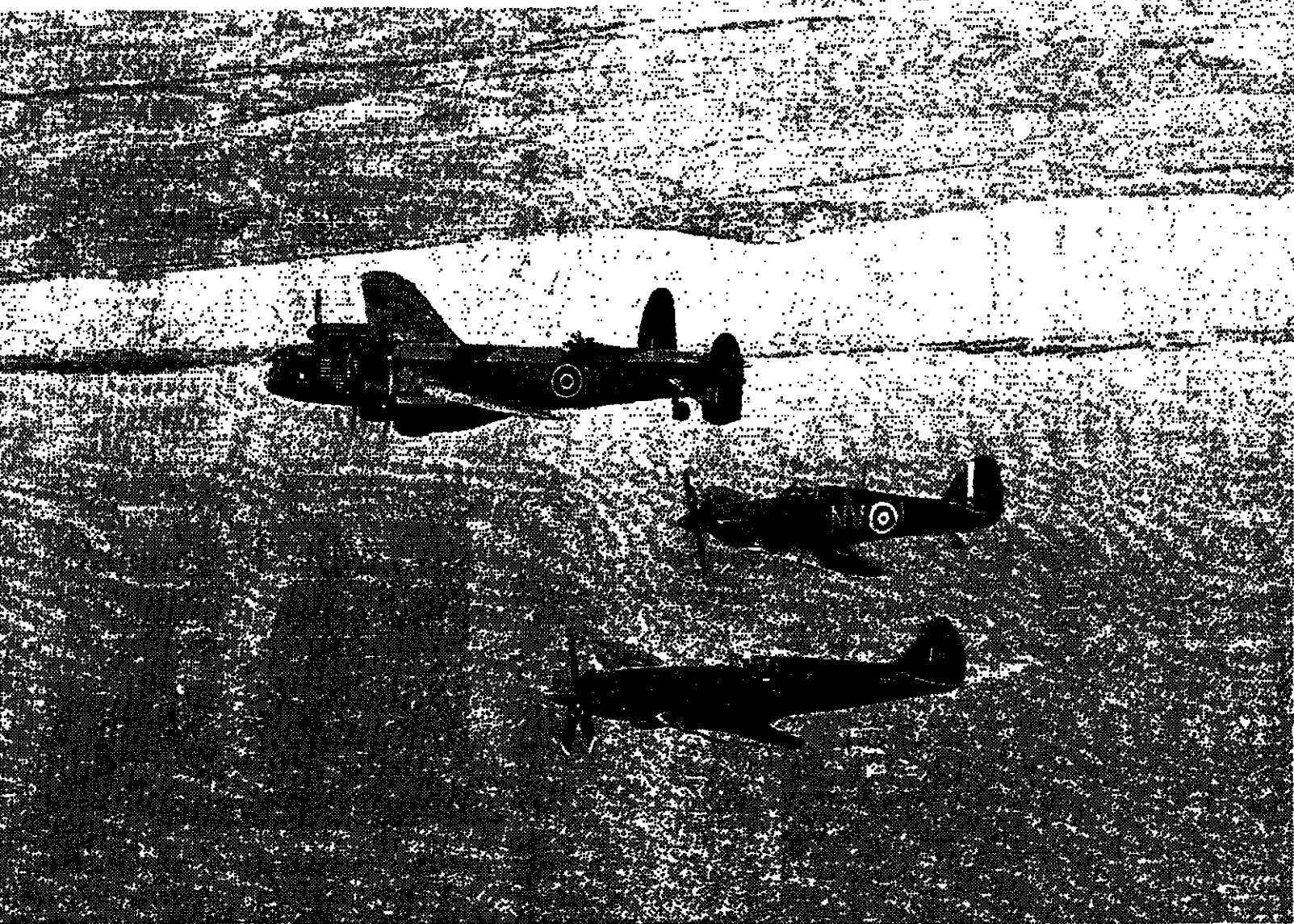
In a statement made after the meeting, Mr Hurd said the fears expressed by the guild were exaggerated but he would bear in mind their representations when finalizing the legislation.

He told them that, with two fairly small exceptions, the proposals were concerned with liberalizing the law and went "considerably further" than any previous proposals.

It would be no longer an offence for a journalist merely to receive information, to report unauthorized disclosures of "the great mass of official information", including Budget proposals.

Only six areas of information would be covered and in four of those the prosecution would have to satisfy a jury that disclosure was likely to result in specified harm to the public interest and that the defendant knew it would.

The white cliffs echo to old air warriors



The drone of the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane was heard again over the white cliffs yesterday, (Harvey Elliott writes). The three aircraft most responsible for winning the air war more than 45 years ago were practising for one of the 150 displays put on

each year by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The flight, based at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, is staffed mainly by RAF personnel, including pilots who normally fly Tornado supersonic strike aircraft, and is responsible for taking care of

the five Spitfires, two Hurricanes, one Lancaster, a Devon and a Chipmunk. None of the three aircraft practising this week for a display in the Channel Islands was built during the Battle of Britain. The Spitfire, a Mark 19, was one of the last produced and has been

a "gate guardian" outside RAF Brawdy in Wales. The Lancaster, the only remaining flying version of the bomber from 7,337 built, dates back to 1945. The Hurricane, built in 1944, has appeared in films.

Photograph: Harry Kerr

Guild of editors

Openness urged on courts

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Courts were accused yesterday of jeopardizing the role of the Press in reporting proceedings by making increasing use of "secrecy" orders to protect families.

The Guild of British Newspaper Editors, in a publication entitled *Officially Secret* which it presented to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said there was a growing "pervasive secrecy" in central and local government, in the courts, and in other public bodies.

Mr Michael Corner, editor of the *The Star*, Sheffield, and chairman of the guild's parliamentary and legal committee, said the Home Office had, since at least 1967, told courts that the name, age and charge of a defendant should be made available to the Press in advance but that was not always being done, even

though Mr Hurd had confirmed the policy.

Mr Ian Beales, editor of the *Western Daily Press*, said: "You now get judges and magistrates making orders because they think it is the nice thing to do to protect people; and coroners who believe it is their job to protect families rather than to let the facts come out".

Officially Secret, which is culled from the experiences of about 100 newspaper editors, says that at least 15 of the 70 crown courts operate some reporting restrictions as regular practice. The main restrictions were excluding the Press from part or all of the trial and allowing the names and addresses of either the accused or witnesses to be withheld.

The guild has also found frequent recourse to the ban-

ning orders under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 and the Children and Young Persons' Act.

The guild also highlights anomalies such as the Press's inability to report all bail applications; that coroners' courts do not have to publicize where they are sitting; that crown courts do not have to ensure that a defendant's address is made available through evidence or its report of the hearing and that small claims are heard in private.

The guild is pressing for the Press and public to have a right of access to all hearings, except where a restriction is necessary for the administration of justice and the public interest.

Officially Secret (Guild of British Newspaper Editors, 74-77 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DA; free).

Job creation grants

Level of company fraud alarms MPs

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

An all-party committee of MPs expressed alarm yesterday over the level of fraud among recipients of regional industrial grants worth about £155 million a year.

In 1986 suspected fraud involving regional development grant (RDG) exceeded £1 million, the Commons Public Accounts Committee disclosed in a critical report on the Department of Trade and Industry's administration of industrial assistance schemes.

The report was based on a National Audit Office inquiry which listed 20 cases of suspected fraud involving grants that year and 12 more in early 1987.

One company had received £120,000 to create 40 jobs in the mail-order industry. Police inquiries showed that not one job had been created.

A plastic cup manufacturer was paid £240,000 to create 80 jobs. A Government inspector was told that the shift system accounted for the low number of workers present. Police inquiries established that only 45 jobs existed. The

department told the MPs that the grant programme had been reformed in 1984 to link the grant directly to job creation, making it much harder to monitor than, for example, grants for capital equipment which was either there or not.

Government inspectors carried out detailed checks, yet most fraud cases came to light after outside tips.

The MPs said: "We are very concerned at the level of fraud on RDG II and we regard it as unacceptable that the majority of cases discovered so far have not been detected by the department's officers".

They acknowledged that efforts were being made to improve the monitoring system, including the possible introduction of reports on grant recipients by independent accountants, although they regretted the delay in implementing that. "We recommend that the matter should now be pursued with a much greater sense of urgency."

The department announced big changes to its industrial aid policies this

year, including the end of regional development grants. However, the MPs also criticize administration of other regional and selective assistance worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

They said that too often assistance went to projects that would have gone ahead anyway. The department admitted that for smaller selective assistance projects it generally accepted applicants' reasons why they could not proceed without aid unless they seemed "implausible".

The MPs said too little effort was made to discover whether jobs created by regional assistance off-set job losses elsewhere. Far tighter objectives should be set when grants were awarded, although recent progress made by the department was welcomed.

They also called for a much more formal and analytical approach to identifying weak areas of industry.

Committee of Public Accounts: Regional and Selective Assistance (Stationery Office; £4.70).

'Thinker' loses right to benefit

Dr Julius Tomin, the Czech dissident who refuses to do any work other than philosophy, has been told by the Department of Social Security he can no longer claim benefit.

Dr Tomin, aged 49, of Banbury Road, Oxford, appealed to a social security tribunal last month to keep his £67.32 a week benefit, withdrawn on the ground that he was unavailable for work.

Mr Christopher Shaikh, chairman of the tribunal, decided Dr Tomin was available for work but could not draw benefit because he had placed too many restrictions on the type of job he would accept.

Soldier shot

The Army has launched an investigation after Sergeant John Wood of the Royal Welch Fusiliers was shot in the hip by part-time soldiers firing high-velocity machine guns at the Warcop training ground in Cumbria on Tuesday night.

Flight plan

Members of an excavation team from Warrington, Cheshire, plan to restore a Northrop Black Widow bomber, used by the US Air Force during the Second World War, which they have unearthed near Nantwich. The plane crashed in 1944.

M25 death

A motorway worker was killed and two others injured on the M25 near Westerham, Kent, yesterday. They were repairing a safety barrier when they were struck by a car which crashed through a line of marker cones.

Film seized

Police in North Wales are examining the film which seemingly shows officers beating up a motorist on Anglesey, after obtaining a court order instructing Harlech television to hand it over. Two officers have been suspended as a result of the incident.

Wapping deal

Mr Thomas Good, aged 45, a former engineer's assistant, of Islington, north London, who was unfairly dismissed by News Group Newspapers during the Wapping dispute, is to accept undisclosed compensation instead of reinstatement in his job as awarded by an industrial tribunal this week.

Victim buried

Relatives, friends and police yesterday paid their last respects at the funeral in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, of Diana Maw, who was killed by a crossbow attacker outside her west London flat in July.

MoD sued

Mr Peter Cory, aged 65, a retired Army major, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, is suing the Ministry of Defence after having a conviction for theft left on police records for 25 years even though he was cleared by a court martial.

Car run deal

The RAC London to Brighton veteran car run, on November 6, is to be sponsored for the first time in 92 years. Kenco Coffee will support the 57-mile race for the next three years with £250,000.

HOW THE POSTAL DISPUTE COULD AFFECT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE.

The postal dispute has disrupted the preparation of the electoral register in many areas.

You could lose your right to vote if your name is missed off the register.

Your Electoral Registration Officer may be making special arrangements locally and advertising them in local newspapers and on radio. If not here's what to do:

● If you haven't received your Electoral Registration Form by the end of the month, go along to your local council offices and ask for one.

● If you have got your registration form and were asked to post it back to the Electoral Registration Officer, fill it in, and if you can, take it to your local council offices. This applies so long as postal services in your area are disrupted.

● If you have already posted your registration form and you think that it may be caught up in the dispute, check the draft register at your local council offices, main library or Post Office. It will be published on 28th November. If your name isn't on it, contact your local council offices.

Call to privatize new towns

By Kerry Gill

Ownership of new towns should be given to local residents who would become shareholders in companies established to own and manage the communities, the Adam Smith Institute suggests today.

The forthcoming closure of development corporations presents the Government with a unique opportunity to alter radically the way new towns are run and create a different social organization, the institute says in a report.

The suggestion, if acted upon, could become a blueprint for other communities, vastly increasing the public's say in how their towns and services are run and giving them a vested interest. New "community towns" should be set up with all the assets

owned and managed by a company with the residents and, possibly, the management as shareholders.

"The operation of a company within the economic domain, subject to commercial and competitive pressures, would be more likely to achieve success and bring in the benefits of commercial expansion than would a local authority management reacting to political pressures", according to the report.

It looks specifically at the five Scottish new towns, although the institute has a working party studying local government as a whole. One option will suggest that "resident ownership" could be extended to other towns of manageable size throughout Britain. Ownership of the

existing new towns would be passed to local companies.

"The prime task of these successor companies would be to manage the new towns and their assets to the best advantage of the company's shareholders, principally the local residents", the authors, a working party set up by the institute, say.

The report, named after a new town in West Lothian, says they should be transformed by 1995.

The report was welcomed by Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State at the Scottish Office with responsibility for the new towns, who said: "We rule out no options."

Livingston Plc I Presume (Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London SW1P 3DJ; £6).

Blacks 'face bias in justice system'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Racial discrimination in the criminal justice system compounds the disadvantage black people suffer in housing, employment and education. Mr Michael Day, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said yesterday.

Social workers, probation officers, police, magistrates, judges and prison staff needed to acknowledge the racism which operates in their part of the system and do something about it. "One contribution

would be to ensure that all these services have a representation of ethnic minority members in their number which more nearly matches the proportion in the population at large", Mr Day said.

He told a conference in Oxford of the Howard League, the penal reform group, that some headway had been made in monitoring the police, prison and probation services. "The judiciary, the magistracy, the legal profession

are, I have to say, the least sympathetic to any research into their sentencing practices or their recruitment", he said. "And they are among the main guardians of freedom and justice in this country."

Mr Day said there was a need to do everything possible before it was too late to change an indefensible under-representation of black people in law enforcement and a massive over-representation among those processed.

Fishing threatens dolphins

The number of dolphins off the Cornish coast has fallen by 90 per cent over the past 50 years, according to a survey published yesterday.

Mr Nick Tregenza, chairman of the Cornwall Trust for Nature Conservation, said the main cause was over-fishing of coastal waters, leaving the dolphins with few fish to eat. Some dolphins had died after being caught in fishing nets and others because of pollution.

The survey, believed to be the first of its kind, was carried out after interviews with 1,000 Cornish residents able to recall the state of dolphin numbers since before the Second World War.

Mr Tregenza said: "Big schools of dolphins are now a thing of the past, but you see more of the solitary, friendly dolphins known to holidaymakers."

"There were beaches in the 1930s where

people regularly expected to see the local bottle-nosed dolphins, but now they haven't been seen for 10 years. If the over-fishing problem goes on, dolphins will be hunting fewer fish and they will be in desperate trouble."

A public meeting would be held next April and pressure put on the Government to act to save the dolphins.

Seals are also continuing to be a source of concern. More than 850 seals have died around the British coast over the past six weeks, according to figures released yesterday by the Natural Environment Research Council. East Anglia and Lincolnshire, where 393 seals had died since August 1, were worst affected. Orkney had the second highest toll, at 189.

Tests were being undertaken to find out how many of the deaths were caused by the canine distemper virus believed to be responsible.

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE



The irresistible rise of Bush from Reagan's shadow

From Michael Binyon
Los Angeles

Mr George Bush's extraordinary and seemingly unstoppable rise in the polls is one of the most remarkable turnarounds of this unpredictable election.

A man written off only a month ago as an ineffectual and gaffe-prone "klutz", the Vice-President is now riding triumphant on a surge of support.

He campaigns vigorously, confidently and with deadly effectiveness, dominating the headlines and keeping his Democratic opponent on the defensive for more than a month.

The transformation of George Bush from the man "with a silver foot in his mouth" to the man with the silver tongue has astonished even his close advisers.

Has the change come from within, from the psychological boost of the New Orleans convention and his emergence from

President Reagan's shadow? Or has radical surgery been performed on the candidate by his top advisers, especially Mr Jim Baker, the new campaign manager who is widely hailed as a political genius?

The answer is a bit of both. Mr Bush has always been more resilient than opponents believed, and has fought back doggedly from his nadir in the polls. He now feels and looks better because he is doing better.

He is more relaxed, more telegraphic, but also sharper and meaner, shedding his gentlemanly image along with his whining voice and goofy mannerisms.

Much of that must be attributed, however, to the professionalism of his top aides. The Bush campaign is now far more effective than that of Governor Michael Dukakis, a model of how political battles must be fought in the age of television. The Bush people have fully understood the

importance of "snappy sound-bites and good visuals". Each rally, each "meeting" with supporters, is elaborately staged.

This week has seen many examples. On Monday Mr Bush was courting Hispanic voters in a gritty corner of New Jersey. The scene was depressing: a rundown street within sight of the New York skyline, a motley of supporters in an overwhelmingly Democratic area.

But the crowd was packed up close and issued with flags and noisy air horns, the makeshift platform was filled with local politicians ranting in Spanish and English, the warm-up by Latino dancing girls in luminous orange and green dresses exuberant.

The "We want George" crescendo - even in accented English - was timed to give just the right amount of tension.

Similarly, the backdrop for a very different rally a few hours later in the affluent white St Louis

suburbs was equally picturesque: two huge slogan-covered balloons were anchored near the platform. Mr Bush was silhouetted against an azure sky and a golden sunset over the fields, the bank of supporters stretching as far as the camera could pan.

And it was the same next day in Jefferson City, Missouri: the steps of the old stone Capitol draped in a huge flag, a statue representing *Patria* with a black choir on one side and a tunicked and cockaded brass band on the other, balloons, flags, pompoms, cheer leaders and all the paraphernalia that the stage managers used with such *elan* in the past two Reagan campaign triumphs.

The standard Bush stump speech also adds one fresh slogan each time to the clever mingling of all the favourite cheer-lines.

Some are so hoary that the crowd now joins in: "Read my lips: NO NEW TAXES". Others rub in the latest distortions of "my

opponent's" policy, as Mr Bush accuses Mr Dukakis of preparing to destroy prosperity with taxes. "and I'm not going to let them take it away from us". And favourite slurs pepper the speech: "Taxachusetts", "the Stealth candidate".

Pacing is meticulous: one new proposal each day (usually unveiled in the morning and repeated then with variations) - enough for one network news lead, so that stories do not collide with each other and attention is lost.

First came the issues that established Bush credentials with the party's hard right: patriotism and the pledge of allegiance to the flag, school prayer, crime and the death penalty for drug dealers.

Secure on that flank, he is now moving to the centre, with a sudden conversion to the environment, "caring" policies for women and children and economic opportunity for minorities. With artful cynicism, Mr Bush introduces

each proposal as a reply to a caricature of Democratic policy. His economic proposals were unveiled in contrast with the Dukakis "Fund to build America".

That, Mr Bush said with a new-found facility in sarcasm, was the old heavy hand of government. "All you need to do is to make a small down payment - \$500 million - to get those industrial planning technocrats to work in Washington."

"My opponent calls this kind of government the 'helping hand'. Well, where is the helping hand reaching? Right for your wallet. What will pay for that helping hand? Your money. And who is being helped? Not you. It's government in Washington picking the winners and losers."

All that is delivered in a deeper voice, with better timing and less hand-waving than before. They hear a new passion, conviction, authority in Mr Bush's voice.

Suddenly the loyal No 2 has disappeared, and he sounds presidential. The campaign coaches have clearly insisted on a crash course in oratory.

Mr Bush has also learnt, as Mr Dukakis is belatedly learning, that being kind to the press does not pay. The media are granted everything - aircraft, telephones, buses, viewing platforms, spokesmen - except for the key demand: access to the candidate.

Mr Bush sticks to his well prepared script, gives almost no press conferences nowadays, answers only a few shouted questions and does not make himself available to reporters on his aircraft. The press, frustrated at merely taking pictures of voters as scenic backdrops, has no chance to pin Mr Bush down on his negative campaigning or force him to answer Dukakis accusations. Instead, the press is used to issue challenges and even to ambush Mr Dukakis.

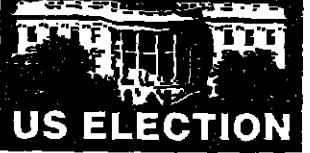
Dukakis takes stage as a hard-hat hero

From Charles Bremner
Washington

Fresh from his martial appearance in the turret of a speeding M1 tank, Mr Michael "Eastwood" Dukakis yesterday tried to make Mr George Bush's day by casting himself as the true heir to the Reagan defence legacy.

An innocent at Mr Dukakis's address to Georgetown University might even have imagined he had wandered into a Republican gathering. "I want to see our country get respect from our allies... We're going to keep America strong," said the man Mr Bush derides as a Harvard loony who has plans to sacrifice American might to pay for kindergartens.

"We must have strategic forces that are strong and



modern and versatile." Mr Dukakis said, taking a swipe at Mr Bush's crack that "he has never met a weapons system that he liked".

Then came the Reagan grab, a play that Mr Dukakis has been developing this week as he has taken his revamped world view on an assault of the industrial heartland. It was, he said, in the interest of American security to negotiate arms accords such as the INF "Euro-missile" treaty. "Unlike Ronald Reagan, George Bush doesn't seem to understand that. He wants to put Start (strategic) negotiations on the back burner. I say we should build on the progress that Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev have made."

Mr Dukakis first allied himself with the President



Governor Michael Dukakis, US Democratic presidential candidate, taking a demonstration run in an M1 tank in Detroit.

against Mr Bush on Tuesday when he intimated in Chicago that only he and Mr Reagan knew how to handle the Russians. The Dukakis team struck on the play after Mr Bush reached for the conservative vote by doubting the wisdom of Mr Reagan's new entente with the Kremlin. The emergence last week of Mr Dan Quayle, Mr Bush's running-mate, as an unrecruited, anti-commie gun-slinger put the icing on the Boston strategy.

There are few signs, however, that the Democratic candidate is winning converts on

what amounts to Mr Bush's home field. As Mr Reagan's man, experienced in foreign policy, the Vice-President is held in the opinion polls to enjoy far greater popular confidence in the field than the inexperienced Massachusetts governor.

A new poll yesterday by *The New York Times* found Mr Bush with a clear 47 to 39 per cent lead in the campaign. The main message of the poll was the increasing approval for Mr Bush as a competent manager of main areas such as defence.

Beyond the military posturing that makes both candidates look as though they were running for military Chief of Staff rather than President, there lies one main, and unchanged, distinction.

Mr Bush plans to spend every available dollar to build the big strategic programmes of the Reagan Administration, from the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) to the B1 bomber. Mr Dukakis plans a radical shift in priorities, scaling back spending on strategic nuclear forces in order to devote much more to tanks, aircraft, high-technology weapons and the infrastructure the armed forces

need. In the deficit-dominated aftermath of the Reagan Administration, neither man will be able to increase the budget.

"We're going to buy weapons that work," Mr Dukakis said yesterday as he restated his opposition to such pillars of the Pentagon as the modernized MX missile, the Midgetman missile, the Star Wars missile defence and the B1 bomber - the \$27 billion (about £15.9 billion) 10-year old "flying lemon" that has yet to enter full service.

The governor appeared to waver again on a shift he made

last week in greater favour of Star Wars. Yesterday he pushed to "stop pouring billions and billions into this programme and do some hard thinking about what we're trying to achieve." He promised to maintain a programme of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) research to "allow us to respond if the Soviets violate their obligations under the ABM treaty, and it will allow us to make an informed judgment as to what the technology can and cannot do."

Mr Dukakis restated his commitment to new Trident 2 sea-based missiles, to the advanced cruise missile and to the Stealth bomber, the futuristic bat-like aircraft that is nearly invisible to radar.

Savings from unnecessary systems would permit construction of new aircraft, high-speed submarines and, among other things, an infantry anti-tank weapon. "Up to 85 per cent of the infantry soldiers using today's anti-tank weapons to stop a Soviet tank attack in Europe would be dead after firing a single round," he said.

Mr Dukakis says his formula will strengthen US forces in Europe and prevent emergence of a "hollow" army - the state of affairs that would exist if Mr Bush cuts costs to the bone to build extravagant strategic systems.

Critics of Mr Dukakis, however, say he has failed to grasp the importance of the nuclear balance, although he has come a long way since he appalled Democratic experts with his naivety when he first briefed them a year ago. According to Mr Anthony Cordesman, a former Pentagon official who advises the Republicans, "the problem is that Dukakis doesn't know enough about defence to know how important it is."

Democrats draw out the hatchet in a Quayle hunt

From Charles Bremner
Washington

He may be no match for Mr Bush with the zippy one-line quips, but Mr Michael Dukakis has come up this week with a two-word weapon that is sure to bring the house down: President Quayle.

After saying aloof from the initial Quayle furore and letting the press do the hatchet work, the Dukakis campaign has discovered there is much capital to be made in evoking images of the senator, aged 41, manning the Oval Office or going "eyeball-to-eyeball" with Mr Gorbachev.

While the opinion polls indicated that voters were put off by the initial media outcry, the Dukakis team has found many would-be Bush voters to be perplexed by the Vice-President's choice of the obscure and not-too-bright Indiana senator as his electoral running mate.

After the assumption of power by three Vice-Presidents since the Second World War and the near-assassination of President Reagan in 1981, every American knows the saying about the "Veep" being "one heartbeat away from the presidency".

So now in every speech Mr Dukakis inserts his Quayle line, always using his aristocratic full name and savouring it with the timing of a W.C. Fields.

"So what is Mr Bush's plan to win the war against drugs, the number one national security issue?" he asks. "J... Danforth... Quayle."

Mr Lloyd Benisen, the Democratic candidate is immune to the type of charges that he is levelling against his opponent.

In Chicago on Tuesday, he drew it out more. "If Mr Bush truly believes that J. Danforth Quayle is qualified to be one heartbeat away from the presidency, how can we trust his judgement when America's future is on the line?"

Dan Quayle is no Gerald Ford. He's no Lyndon Johnson. And he sure ain't Harry Truman. Can we stake our future on the hope that he is a match for Mikhail Gorbachev?

"No, no," shouted the crowd, hooting at the image of the boyish senator being washed down with the caviar and mineral water by the master of the Kremlin.

Mr Quayle did himself little good in this domain with a series of public remarks over the past week that have suggested that his analysis of Soviet affairs stems from the plots of Tom Clancy, the gun-ho writer of "techno-thrillers". Mr Quayle, far to the right of Mr Reagan, also thinks that Mr Gorbachev is just a craftier leaver of the same old evil empire.

On Tuesday, though, Mr Quayle slung some ridicule back from the depths of suburban Milwaukee.

"Want to hear a sad story about the Dukakis campaign, another sad story?" he asked. "The Governor of Massachusetts, he lost his top naval adviser last week. The rubber duck drowned in his bathtub."

WORLD ROUNDUP

Gun gang seizes recruiting office

Washington - Three men armed with automatic weapons and claiming to be Lebanese citizens yesterday seized about 10 hostages and occupied a military recruiting office in Richmond, Virginia, a Pentagon spokesman said (Mohsin Ali writes). Richmond police had surrounded the building.

First reports about the number of armed men involved and the number of people seized varied. Police Sergeant Carl Murdoch told reporters that one gunman had been in touch with police by telephone. "I understand he wants a press conference. He may want to make a plea for peace in Lebanon," he said.

Rangoon defiance

Bangkok - In one of the biggest demonstrations since the uprising in Burma began more than a month ago, hundreds of thousands of people thronged the streets of Rangoon, the capital, yesterday calling for the abolition of the Socialist Government (Edward Gorman writes). Western diplomats in the city said more than 200,000 people joined the march, despite the Government's calls for a return to work.

There were also unconfirmed reports in Rangoon yesterday that a bomb explosion in Mandalay, Burma's second city, injured 36 people on Tuesday. The demonstrators included for the first time more than a hundred uniformed police and pilots and air hostesses from the Burmese national airline.

Crash pilot dismissed

Paris (Reuters) - M Michel Asseline, the pilot of an Air France Airbus that crashed at an airshow in June, has been dismissed for "failings of particular seriousness which he has admitted". Air France said yesterday. The Civil Aviation Authority's discipline board had blamed him for the crash. Three people were killed on June 26 when the Airbus A-320 crashed into a forest during an air show at Mulhouse, in eastern France. Air France said it had not yet decided the fate of the co-pilot, M Pierre Mazieres. The two pilots were accused of ignoring advanced technology on the new jet that should have made it impossible for the aircraft to fly too low and risk crashing.

Hamadei takes stand

Frankfurt (Reuters) - Mohammed Ali Hamadei, on trial for hijacking a United States airliner in June 1985, used a blank grenade yesterday to demonstrate to a Frankfurt court that those he smuggled on to the TWA jet were harmless.

Mr Hamadei, a Lebanese Muslim who has admitted taking part in the hijack but has denied murdering a US Navy diver, Robert Stethem, said: "The witnesses have not told the truth on many points. The goal was not to kill people. Complicity to murder carries life imprisonment."

Britons made aliens

Sydney - Tens of thousands of Britons living in Australia who have not bothered to take out Australian citizenship have been classified as aliens (Christopher Morris writes). Many have lived in the country for years.

The High Court in Canberra ruled that Parliament was able to remove retrospectively any rights of residence that might have been accumulated. A person was an alien if he or she was not born in Australia, or did not have Australian parents, or had not become an Australian citizen.

Republicans launch a family crusade

From Michael Binyon
Los Angeles

Vice-President George Bush is about to announce proposals to deal with a social crisis that has been gathering momentum over the years and has become one of the key election issues: the decline of the American family.

The Republican candidate for the White House has asked his staff to work out details on two policy initiatives to help working women and single-parent families often caught in a poverty trap - an increase in the minimum wage, and encouragement to businesses to allow employees paid or unpaid leave for child care.

The Bush campaign hopes that the proposals will give flesh to Mr Bush's call at the Republican convention for a "kindert, gentler nation".

It is also an attempt to pre-empt Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic candidate, who enjoys a strong advantage among women voters and has made the erosion of the American family and the difficulties of working women a leading issue of his campaign.

The crisis in the traditional family structure has gathered pace

since President Reagan came to power, despite his promise on election in 1980 to lead a "crusade to restore the American family".

Illegitimate births have risen from 18 per cent to 22 per cent. The number of children in poor families has gone up from 18 per cent to 20 per cent, and the proportion of those living with a single parent has increased from 20 to 24 per cent.

Although the divorce rate has fallen slightly, from 23 per cent to 21 per cent, it is still more than twice that of most other industrial democracies. The number of cohabiting couples has risen from 1.6 million to 2.3 million.

The number of married mothers in the work force of America is now 64 per cent, compared with 54 per cent in 1980, while the proportion of mothers working with children aged under three is 54 per cent, compared with 41 per cent.

A bleak picture of familial disintegration has just been published by two economists at the George Washington University in the capital.

They say that nearly a quarter of births now occur out of wedlock, compared with 5 per cent in 1960. If the trend continues, illegitimate births will soon overtake divorce as

the main cause for single mothers being heads of families.

As it is, about 50 per cent of children will live with a single parent at some time before their 16th birthday. Nearly nine out of every 10 black children will do so.

The traditional family - a breadwinner, a wife staying at home, and children - now constitutes only a tenth of all American households.

The authors, Mr Sam Levitan and Mr Richard Bellows, say: "The Reagan Administration has not been able to restore a presumed family paradise lost. Instead, recent family-related trends are creating a nation of 'haves and have-nots', threatening the stability of American society." They point to the rise in illegitimate births among teenagers, especially black girls.

In 1985 the number of children born to unmarried girls rose to 58 per cent. Among blacks, it was 90 per cent. Nearly a fifth of unmarried pregnant teenagers reported that their pregnancies were intentional.

Studies have shown that many poor black girls believe that having a baby is the only way of achieving any self-respect. Many also intentionally get pregnant to be able to claim child support. Most drop out of school, remain unqualified, can-

not find a job, and remain on welfare for the rest of their lives.

Female poverty and the plight of children in poor households has become a big election issue.

President Reagan frequently blamed the social welfare system, which he said made it difficult to escape the poverty trap. But Mr Bush is now distancing himself from this position and trying to steal the Democrats' thunder in proposing a rise in the minimum wage - something of particular benefit to poor, unmarried mothers.

Mr Bush has been trying to show that he is not insensitive to the demands placed on many women by their dual roles at work and in caring for their families.

Last month he proposed a child-care tax credit for low-income families, an approach, he said, would avoid setting up a very costly bureaucracy.

The Democrats, by contrast, want to subsidize child care directly. Their election platform endorses "family leave policies that no longer force employees to choose between their jobs and their children or ailing parents".

Democrats in the Senate, led by Mr Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, have proposed a Bill giving a

parent or guardian up to 10 weeks' leave every two years for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child with a serious health problem.

It would apply to federal workers and private firms with 20 or more employees. The leave could be paid or unpaid, and the General Accounting Office has estimated that it would cost employers \$194 million (£114 million) a year.

Many states have already passed laws to bolster the family, ranging from better enforcement of child-support payments to the provision of day-care centres.

Among all families with absent fathers, almost 60 per cent still received no child support in 1985. The same as four years earlier.

On average, child-support payments are only \$16 a week, although many states are now insisting that parents without custody should pay about 20 per cent of their net income to support one child, and about 30 per cent to support two.

Mr Bush's proposal to expand family leave marks a sharp departure from previous Republican thinking, which strongly supported efforts by business to defeat previous attempts to introduce a parental leave Bill.

South African activists stay in their American sanctuary

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Three prominent black nationalist activists who have taken refuge in the United States Consulate in Johannesburg said they would stay there yesterday, despite a government pledge that they would not be arrested if they left.

Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said in Pretoria that he had consulted Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order. As far as the Government was concerned, the reasons advanced by the three for their actions were not credible.

He said consideration had been given already to their respective cases and they were "not in any danger of being arrested once they leave the Consulate". The trio, Mr Murphy Morobe, publicity secretary of the United

Democratic Front, Mr Valli Moosa, treasurer of the Front, and Mr Vusi Khanyile, president of the banned National Education Crisis committee, issued a statement through their lawyer, which said: "We demand that the state of emergency be lifted and that all detainees be unconditionally released. We demand the right to walk out of this consulate free of any restrictions or threat of re-detention."

The three said they had sought refuge to protest at their continued detention without trial, and to draw attention to hundreds more.

They escaped on Tuesday from a Johannesburg hospital where they had been taken from Diepkloof prison for treatment.

Mr Morobe and Mr Moosa had been held without trial

under state of emergency regulations for 14 months. Mr Khanyile had been held since December 1986. They said they had tried, and failed, to bring their plight before the courts. Representations for their release to the Minister of Law and Order had received no sympathy.

"This has left us at the mercy of the unfettered, discretionary powers of the security police," they said.

The US State Department had declared earlier that although it was not American policy to offer asylum in consular or diplomatic premises, "we were in contact with these three men prior to their detention and hold them in high regard".

Mr Tom Furey, the US Consul in Johannesburg, said they would not be forced to leave.

Graham the Uganda hippo captivates Sir Geoffrey

From Andrew McEwen, Kampala

Six generations of visiting Englishmen have been alternately enchanted and appalled by Uganda's diverse peoples, trying in turn to trade with them, convert them, rule them, be rid of them, disown them and finally help them.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who completed a two-day visit yesterday, went away captivated by and keen to assist the land the Victorians thought of as Darkest Africa.

An annual encounter with its fauna played some part in his desire.

A large hippopotamus was taking an early evening nap in the Kazinga Channel, a stretch of water linking Lake George and Lake Edward, when the launch carrying the Foreign Secretary's party almost bumped into it.

Disturbed hippos have been known to overturn quite large

boats, which would have been unfortunate for diplomacy because the vessel also contained almost the entire Ugandan Cabinet.

Happily, Graham - as the locals call him - took fright, scrambled up the bank and stood waiting while the party alighted. He tolerated - one could not say encouraged - photographs by Lady Howe. Sir Geoffrey seemed dismayed by Graham's reluctance to eat the press corps.

Having crossed the Equator eight times in the past four days, and acquired a sun tan and a taste for safari suits, Sir Geoffrey seems to be enjoying his African travels.

He announced the immediate release of the last £10 million of British programme aid for Uganda held over from last year pending approval by the International Monetary

Fund of Uganda's economic policies. He also offered a further £10 million to be spent in the next 12 months, subject to Uganda's continuing to follow the IMF's economic recommendations.

President Museveni, speaking during a visit by the visiting British party to Mweya Lodge, a tourist hotel at Queen Elizabeth National Park, said that a new Uganda was emerging which "does not want to be a parasite to anyone" and would prefer trade to aid.

He added that Uganda would need large sums in loans and credits to enable it to finance new technology.

"We are talking about maybe \$500 million (about £300 million) in credits," he said. If that took Sir Geoffrey's breath away, he did not let it show.

PLO chairman interviewed by The Times

Arafat insists West Bank state would take all Palestinians

From Robert Fisk, Strasbourg

Up to five million Palestinians would be entitled to their own passports if there was a Palestinian government-in-exile, and even those who were not born in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be permitted to live in a new Palestinian state, according to Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, he said it was the right of any diaspora Palestinians to take up residence in a new state.

If Mr Arafat's statement is taken at face value, it means that tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and other Arab countries, whose families came from the part of pre-1948 Palestine that is now Israel, could go to a new Palestinian nation in the West Bank and live within 50 miles of their original homes.

The Israelis would totally reject this idea in any peace negotiations with Palestinian representatives. The concept of the "right to return" for all Palestinians also clearly troubles the PLO itself, and Mr Arafat seemed both vexed and uneasy when he replied to my questions in Strasbourg.

Obviously, he came here to seek the support of European governments for the Palestinian demand for an indepen-

dent state. But PLO officials make no secret of the fact that he wants European nations to accept both a Palestinian government-in-exile and a Palestinian passport — if such a Palestinian administration is created within the next few months. Both the design and the colour of a Palestinian passport — it would be green — have already been agreed by PLO officials, who await the vote of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's "parliament", to embark on the road to notional statehood.

Israel's four million population includes an estimated 800,000 Arab Palestinians, and Mr Arafat's Palestinian "citizens" could therefore outnumber Israel's Jewish population by almost 2-1. In Lebanon, there is already a growing suspicion among Palestinian refugees that the Israelis — should they ever be persuaded to go to the conference table — would insist that any new state contained only those Palestinians who currently have their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This may well account for Mr Arafat's anxiety when questioned about a Palestinian "right to return".

When I first asked him if every Palestinian would be entitled to a passport, and to

travel to a Palestinian state, his reply was rhetorical. "At least he can find a place to be buried in," he said. When I repeated the question, Mr Arafat's aides whispered to him their own disagreement with his original reply. But again, he said: "At least he can find a place to be buried in."

As Mr Arafat's officials once more muttered advice to their leader, Mr Arafat changed his response. "Definitely," he said. "There will be a possibility for them to come. But do you think those (Palestinians) who are living in Latin America with Latin American nationality will return back? I know them."

Apparently aware that this reply would be unacceptable to thousands of PLO members — few of whom live in Latin America — he responded more forcefully when I repeated the question. It was "definite", he said, that any Palestinian in Lebanon could go and live in a Palestinian state. "It's definite. It is his right."

Mr Arafat's critics would say that his statements are hypothetical, that the PLO is still far from creating a credible "provisional" government, let alone possessing a state. But the PLO leader insisted to me yesterday that he had received "a very, very



Mr Arafat emphasizing a point in a news conference at the European Parliament yesterday.

positive response from the European Parliament." His long speech to socialist members of the Parliament on Tuesday evening was the result of much discussion and collaboration among senior PLO officials. The more passionate and angry passages were written by Mr Arafat.

He explained yesterday that a government-in-exile was one of two options to be discussed by the Palestine National Council. The other was an "international mandate" for

the occupied territories which would maintain them outside Israeli control. The PLO, he said, were "ready to implement and to accept all UN resolutions and international legality — including all things for the Israelis and the Palestinians." It was as near as he got to acknowledging that at an international peace conference the PLO would accept the right of Israel to exist.

He had come to Strasbourg, he said, "to co-ordinate and to push forward the international

conference through which we can negotiate."

Mr Menachem Begin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, he said, "imagined that through the invasion of Lebanon (in 1982) he could liquidate the PLO and the Palestinians, (but) here we are after six years. We are the main figure in the Middle East equation... We are asking for international legality to be implemented, for justice and a comprehensive solution."

Plea to Britain to back exile administration

From Richard Owen, Strasbourg

Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, yesterday said that he was ready to hold direct talks with Israel. In addition, he announced that the Palestine National Council would hold a meeting next month to decide on the setting up of a provisional Palestinian government-in-exile.

Mr Arafat appealed to Europe, and to Britain in particular, to back a provisional government "if the PNC chooses that path".

Officials saw this as a clear signal that Mr Arafat hopes the PNC will back a government-in-exile, and that the EEC will help to bring it about. He also called for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices.

After weeks of manoeuvring, Mr Arafat has used his controversial visit this week to the European Parliament to move closer to the setting up of the basis of an independent Palestinian state, following the decision by King Husain of Jordan in July to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

But quite apart from Israeli opposition — likely to be increased if the Israeli election in November produces the expected right-wing gains — Mr Arafat still has to persuade Arab states and elements in the PLO that a mini-state on the West Bank is acceptable. European support was vital to Mr Arafat, sources said.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister, who is current president of the EEC Council of Ministers, said after a 90-minute meeting with Mr Arafat that the PLO leader was a "dependable and reliable interlocutor". EEC foreign ministers will debate whether to back a provisional Palestinian government when they meet at Yanina in Greece on October 15-16.

Mr Papoulias said his personal view was that "Europe must examine the new situation and must take the necessary steps".

Mr Papoulias confirmed that EEC foreign ministers were considering a special meeting with Mr Arafat. The

PLO leader said that he had discussed "delicate issues" to do with EEC-PLO co-operation in his talks with Mr Papoulias, but could not give details.

Mr Arafat said before leaving: "I wonder whether Europe will recognize a provisional government? This is a very important question. I am still wondering about the answer."

He was evasive, however, when asked if he would meet Western demands for PLO recognition of Israel. He said that he himself was not laying down any pre-conditions, and would abide by UN resolutions. Officials said this referred to Resolution 242, which contains an implicit recognition of Israel.

Mr Arafat clarified for the first time the options the PNC would face in seeking to "fill the vacuum" left by the Jordanian decision. These were:

- An international mandate for the West Bank, following an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories; and
- The declaration of a Palestinian state "under Israeli occupation", and hence of a government-in-exile.

Mr Arafat said he wanted to send a message to Mrs Thatcher, urging her to support the Palestinian cause. Because of the British mandate in Palestine, Britain had a special moral and historical responsibility.

The PLO leader repeatedly declared in emotional terms that he was "stretching out the hand of peace" to Israel.

He emphasized that the PLO had already taken a decision "relating to Palestine national sovereignty" by taking on the responsibility for the 23,000 West Bank officials who were previously under Jordanian administration.

He denied that the PLO was a terrorist organization, and accused Israel of practising terrorism by killing unarmed Palestinian children and carrying out gasings, murders, torture, deportations and live burials. He said: "I address myself to the people of Israel — will they elect peace or war?"

Shamir reinforces Hungarian links

From Sallie Ecroyd, Budapest

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit in a further sign of Hungary's eagerness to strengthen its relations with Israel.

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry refused to say whether Mr Shamir would meet government leaders during his "private" stay, but he is none the less certain to have held at least brief talks yesterday with the Hungarian Prime Minister and Communist Party leader, Mr Karoly Grosz, and longer discussions with economic and trade officials.

Hungary broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. But the two countries set up interest sections in each other's capitals through the Swiss and Swedish embassies earlier this year, and since then there has been a regular traffic of senior officials between the two countries.

The president of the Hungarian Credit Bank, Mr Sandor Demjan, has been quoted as saying the breaking of ties has been "a mistake", and that trade could be quadrupled from its present yearly level of just over \$200 million (£120 million).

Hungary is currently courting all quarters to help itself out of its economic plight. Mr

Grosz's visit to the United States in July was aimed at gaining business confidence and contracts at least as much as at strengthening political links. And as the authorities broke socialist ranks on Tuesday to announce moves towards full diplomatic relations with South Korea, they dwelt at length on Seoul's economic prowess and made little mention of Communist North Korea, except to say that it has been informed.

Full diplomatic links with Israel are, however, not yet imminent. Before that, Hungary would want to see many Israeli concessions in the Middle East peace process.

The Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, has stated his willingness to accept economic ties racing ahead of diplomatic ones, but Mr Shamir is thought to be more disgruntled at the disparity.

His official business completed, Mr Shamir will today visit Budapest's recently erected monument to Raul Wallenberg, the Swedish war hero who delivered thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis.

Mr Shamir is also scheduled to make a visit to Budapest's biggest synagogue. There are estimated to be some 80,000 Hungarian Jews and over 200,000 Israelis of Hungarian origin.

Britons drowned

The bodies of two Britons from Oxfordshire, Mr Jeffrey Telling, aged 52, of Thame, and his friend, Mrs Ann Woodwards, aged 49, of Chinnor, have been found drowned on a beach in Crete (Our Foreign Staff writes).

In Spain Mr Kenneth Breen, aged 64, of Halifax, and Mr Peter Blanchard, also 64, of Lancaster, drowned while swimming off the resort of Guardamar, near Alicante.

Flood deaths

Peking (AFP) — At least 80 people have died in floods sweeping the Dongting Lake area of northern Hunan province. The Yangtze river is three feet above danger level at Wuhan in Hubei province.

Student clash

Colombo (AFP) — A 32-hour curfew was imposed in central Sri Lanka after police clashed with student demonstrators, killing one and seriously wounding six, officials said.

Saudi wheat

Riyadh (Reuters) — Saudi Arabia has exported more than 700,000 tonnes of wheat to 30 countries, including China and the Soviet Union, in the past four months, officials announced.

Sudan famine

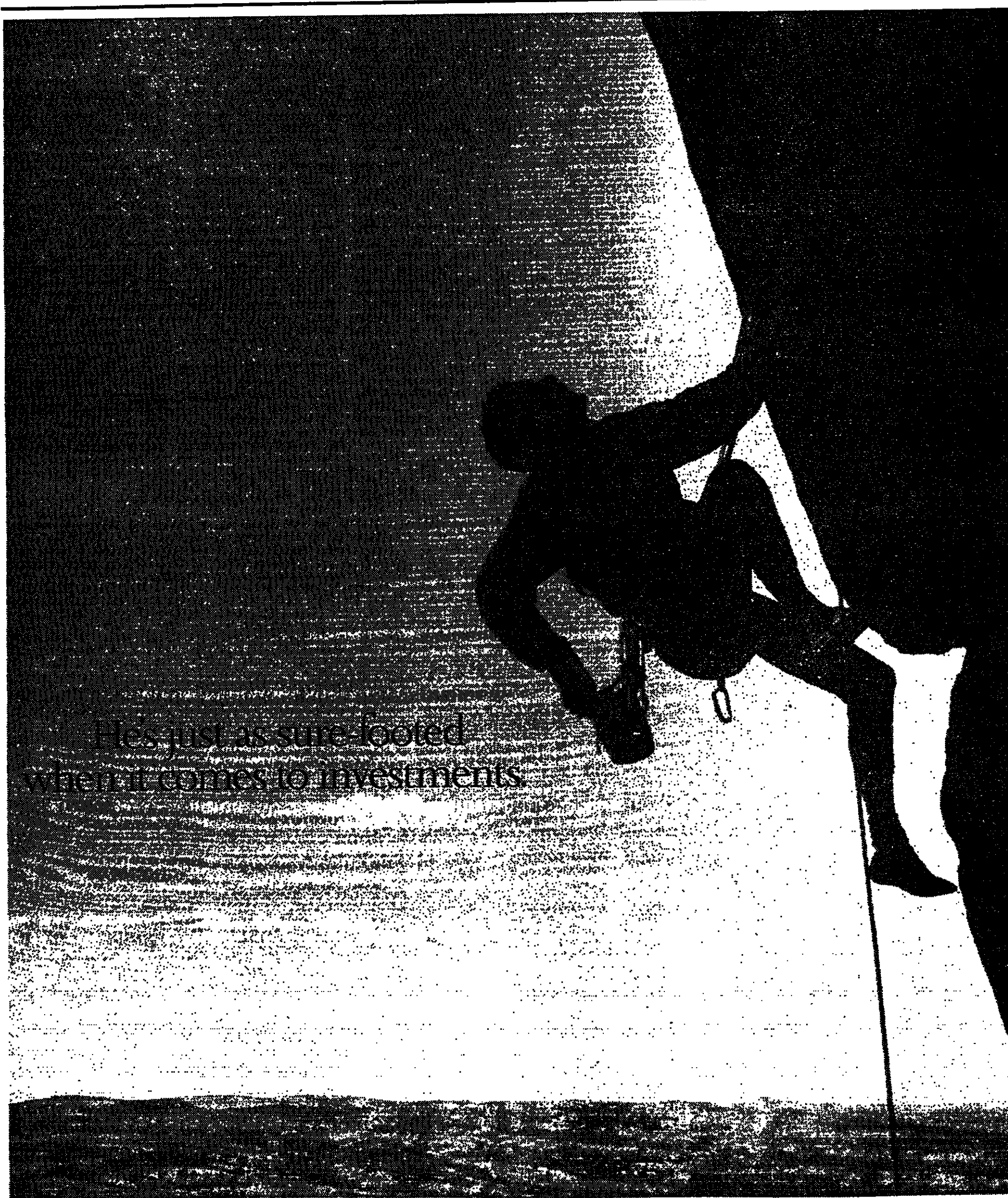
Khartoum (Reuters) — At least 350 people died of hunger last week in the southern Sudanese town of Malakal and surrounding areas, a senior Sudanese official said. He said no relief had reached the town and disease was rife.

Curse trouble

Sydney (AFP) — An Australian high school student who allegedly swore at his teacher faces charges carrying a penalty of up to three months in jail, authorities said.

Orphan riot

Delhi (AFP) — About 15 policemen were injured when 500 children at a private orphanage in Calcutta went on the rampage to protest against bad living conditions.



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Gorbachov hears of Olympics add to misery in Seoul slums

From Gavin Bell
Seoul

As the Olympic torch nears Seoul today it will pass a small community of plywood shacks covered with polythene sheeting beside the main highway from Incheon.

A large sign being erected yesterday identifies it as a construction site for a residential development project. It is nothing of the sort.

It is the last, tenuous refuge of 25 impoverished families who have been forcibly evicted from their homes in the capital by property developers, with the tacit support of municipal authorities. The fraudulent sign is a clumsy attempt to conceal the victims of an appalling catalogue of violence, broken promises and injustice.

They are not alone. The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) estimates that more than a million tenants in Seoul are living in constant fear of eviction because of large redevelopment schemes, accelerated by an urge to "beautify" the city in preparation for the Olympics.

It says that 720,000 people have lost their homes in the past five years, and that no adequate provisions exist for rehousing those who cannot afford rents that have doubled and tripled over the same period.

At a press conference last weekend, an ACHR mission claimed that 13 people had died as a result of the evictions, some of them after being beaten by hired thugs.

The scale of the evictions and the level of "methodical, cold-blooded violence" were described as unique in Asia.

Mr John Bartle, Labour MP for Leeds West, noted a link with the Olympics. "The pace of development has been accelerated, but the benefits are not being distributed justly. It is clear that the poor are paying the price for the Olympic Games in Seoul."

There is no doubt that city planners face enormous problems in coping with a population of over 10 million. There were 2.2 million households and only 1.3 million housing units in Seoul last year, or six homes for every 10 families.

A senior city official, who asked not to be identified, admitted that there was "a dark side" to South Korea's economic miracle.

"We have a lot of slums, the city needs to be redeveloped, and the private developers want to make profits. The problem is that the city has not been rich enough to provide for those in the low-income bracket."

He said that policies were changing under the democratic administration that took office this year. Tenants' rights were being strengthened, and the Government was planning to build two million housing units.

Mr Kim Yong Nae, the Mayor of Seoul, said in a speech yesterday that the authorities wished to improve the living conditions of the less well-off, who have been "somewhat neglected" during the industrialization process.

The prospect of a brighter future remains remote for the refugees encamped by the route of the Olympic torch on the outskirts of the city. The remnants of a 3,000-strong community bulldozed from its homes more than two years ago, they have suffered smashed teeth, broken limbs and humiliation in their struggle for survival.

Their experience has been recorded on a video film narrated by Father John Daly, an American Jesuit who has espoused their cause.

With the help of donations from church groups, students and factory workers, they bought a small plot of land by the Incheon expressway last January. But demolition crews, backed by riot police, repeatedly tore down their flimsy dwellings because they did not comply with building standards.

Father Daly comments: "Redevelopment areas in Korea are theatres of the absurd. Signs are posted making it legal for riot police to protect gangsters and treat civilians as criminals." Yesterday they were moving under duress yet again - a few yards closer to the municipal signboard to lend credence to the lie that their land is a building site.

Mrs Kim Ok Soon, a widow with three children, said: "The officials look down on us; we are something less than human in their eyes."

"But our struggle may benefit others; already the Government has been forced to retreat and admit we exist."

She will not be among the crowds applauding the Olympic flame today. "I don't even want to look at it."

Police said: South Korean riot police stormed a university yesterday, witnesses said, and fought scores of radical students staging an anti-Olympic rally (Reuter reports).

Sixteen riot police suffered burns after being hit by petrol bombs hurled by the youths at Kyongwon University in Songnam, near Seoul, they said.

In Seoul, about 300 students broke out of a campus to stage a street protest against the Games.



Masks on parade in Seoul yesterday, rehearsing for Saturday's opening of the Olympics.

Moscow (Reuter) - Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, on a Siberian tour that has been marked by complaints about poor living standards, arrived yesterday in the Arctic city of Norilsk and plunged quickly into lively debates with the waiting crowds.

Tass said Mr Gorbachov stopped on the way from the airport to talk to workers at a metallurgical plant before mingling with crowds of local citizens during a number of walkabouts around the industrial city which has a population of 200,000.

"Off-shift workers, pensioners and children everywhere warmly welcomed M.S. Gorbachov during his visit and strolls around the city, and got involved in free and easy discussions," Tass reported.

It said that one such discussion was on food supplies, adding that the Soviet leader had expressed his approval of measures taken in the city to deal with the problem that Tass said was "an especially important theme in the far north."

But it was not clear from the Tass report if Mr Gorbachov faced the same barrage of complaints from the inhabitants of Norilsk, some 190 miles north of the Arctic Circle, as he did earlier this week in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk.

The agency said a Norilsk food shop visited by Mr Gorbachov and his party was well stocked with meat, poultry and dairy products, but added that greenhouses outside the city could not meet

the demand for vegetables, which had to be brought in from farther south.

On his arrival on Monday in the regional centre of Krasnoyarsk, 1,250 miles south of Norilsk, Mr Gorbachov was assailed by complaints from angry inhabitants over inadequate food supplies and low living standards.

"Go into our shops, Mikhail Sergeyevich. You'll see there's nothing there," a woman called out, as the Soviet leader, accompanied by his wife, Raisa, sought to reassure the crowds.

Mr Gorbachov spent two days in Krasnoyarsk, a big industrial centre on the banks of the Yenisey river. Soviet television showed him listening sympathetically to vehement complaints from ordinary people on the streets and in factories.

Conceding that the Government bore much of the blame for inadequate social planning, Mr Gorbachov appealed for faith in his perestroika reform programme and called on people to do more to help themselves.

"Every leader would like to open a box and offer the people its contents, but we have nothing to open," he said, adding that people kept appealing to him to do something, as though he were the Tsar of Russia.

"It is time to abandon tsars and dictators," he said.

Mr Gorbachov's walkabouts have become a distinctive feature of his tours around the Soviet Union, in sharp contrast to previous Soviet leaders who kept them-

selves remote from the people. But the angry scenes shown on TV during the Krasnoyarsk tour were in sharp contrast to the enthusiastic reception given the Soviet leader on previous trips.

The outpouring of resentment appeared to reflect the frustration of ordinary Soviet citizens, who have not seen any improvement in their living conditions since Mr Gorbachov's reforms began.

Addressing local leaders and heads of enterprises this week in Krasnoyarsk, Mr Gorbachov called for special programmes to be worked out in vital areas, such as food and housing, so that people could see tangible results in two to three years.

He also revealed that the Government was considering introducing private agriculture in the form of "family farms" to boost production and ease the food crisis.

● SEMIPALATINSK: The Soviet Union yesterday exploded an underground nuclear charge, testing American and Soviet verification equipment in an experiment expected to lead to the ratification of two US-Soviet treaties concluded more than 10 years ago (AFP reports).

The explosion, of between 100 and 150 kilotons, took place in the presence of American scientists and Western observers at the Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakhstan.

Radiation was reported to be normal in the vicinity after the blast. The test was the second joint US-Soviet experiment. The first was in Nevada on August 17.

Worried Iraqis try to dispel gas allegations

By Juan Carlos Guncacio

The Government of President Saddam Hussein has embarked on a campaign to prove to the world that Iraq is fighting a clean war against Kurdish insurgents in the north of the country.

Baghdad officials are reacting worriedly and angrily to the wave of condemnation from Washington by inviting foreign journalists to the area.

The officials hope to counter the dramatic testimony from Kurdish civilians and guerrillas, who have spoken of the widespread use of chemical weapons against them by the Iraqi Army.

Although President Saddam has received expressions of support and solidarity from two of his main allies, Jordan and Kuwait, efforts to convince the rest of the inter-

national community that the accusations are nothing but an anti-Arab campaign by Israel may prove impossible.

The Iraqi Government's word will have to be set against the statements of Kurdish refugees who have spoken of clouds of choking gas which they say engulfed their villages, ultimately driving nearly 100,000 people into southern Turkey over recent weeks.

The Iraqis will give a different story to those coming out of the makeshift refugee camps along the Turkish frontier.

For instance, as he sat at the entrance to his tent in the camp on the barren plain of Uzunsirt, east of the village of Yeksekova, Akram, a middle-aged Persian told *The Times* of the gas attacks last week, frequently using the words "Hiroshima", "gas" and "napalm".

Referring to the town of Hamadiyah, which has reportedly been under intense bombardment during the Iraqi Army's offensives against the strongholds of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Mr Massoud Barzani, Akram pressed his hand to his throat to show the effect of asphyxiating toxic gases which he said were dropped on houses in the town.

He repeatedly demanded that Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, should accuse President Saddam of using chemical weapons.

Mr Servish Barzani, aged 25, a Kurdish guerrilla who reached Turkey after crossing the rugged mountain frontier

with hundreds of civilians, described how he and the other refugees were attacked with "phosphorous, cyanide and napalm bombs". He complained that the world was ignoring the plight of the Kurds.

Walking along the tidy rows of green tents in the refugee camp, I heard repeated and detailed stories of the use of gas as well as conventional artillery against hamlets and villages throughout north-eastern Iraq.

Several Kurdish refugees spoke of experiencing dizziness, itching eyes and respiratory problems as they marched northwards to safety in Turkey. They spoke of acrid smells "similar to that of apples and garlic".

Turkish doctors around Cukura reported that a number of people, suffering from respiratory problems, skin inflammation and other symptoms related to injuries from chemical weapons, had been transferred to different hospitals in the area.

Mr Thomas Goltz, an American freelance journalist based in Ankara, photographed Mr Mohammad Hussein, aged 40, who had burns to his face and arms.

In the refugee camp, children in colourful dresses played and laughed around hundreds of bonfires where women cooked for the 5,000 or so inhabitants - a number likely soon to triple.

Turkish relief workers set up electricity posts, field toilets and even a red telephone box, but many of the men seemed overcome by memories of their recent nightmare.

The fate of the Iraqi Kurds was sealed shortly after Iraq and Iran agreed on August 20 to observe the ceasefire sponsored by the United Nations.

Mr Barzani's forces and those of Mr Jalal Talabani, who leads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which have been receiving generous support from Iran, became Baghdad's primary target.

What followed was an implacable campaign against the Turkish separatist movement that only the people who managed to flee to Turkey are now capable of describing. Kurdish guerrillas speak of thousands of dead in the Iraqi onslaught and the true figure may never be known.

The lack of hard evidence may allow Baghdad to go on denying American allegations of the use of gas, but there is no doubt among the Kurds that Iraq not only revived the horror of the chemical warfare of the First World War, but is continuing to use gas inside its own country.

● ANKARA: The Turkish Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Turkish medical experts who had examined Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iraq had found "no trace or evidence of chemical weapons" being used against them by Baghdad.

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SPECTRUM

Olympic champion

THE TIMES
PROFILE

JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH

When Avery Brundage of the United States handed the presidency of the International Olympic Committee to Lord Killanin following the Munich massacre of 1972, he commented that Killanin would probably be in charge of the last two Games. Politics, commercialism and terrorism had overrun the event.

With the subsequent boycotts of 1976 and 1980, and the unwillingness at one stage of any candidate to host the 1984 Games, that forecast might have proved accurate. The fact that the Games about to start in Seoul on Saturday are the largest of all time, even more remarkably that they are taking place in this divided peninsula at all, is primarily due to the resourcefulness of one man: Killanin's successor, Juan Antonio Samaranch, former Spanish Ambassador to the Soviet Union. International sport, in the shape of the Olympics, may indeed have helped change the political complexion of Asia for the better. This week the Soviet Union and Hungary, allies of North Korea, have opened respective trade and diplomatic missions with South Korea, unimaginable not so long ago. "The decision of the Soviet bloc to attend these Games has been a triumph for Samaranch's diplomacy," Mary Glen Haig, a British IOC member, said.

His short, undemonstrative Catalan, born in 1920, is an administrator of deceptive calm and considerable power. In eight years he has transferred the IOC's predominantly elderly and outdated organization. To do so, he moved into Lausanne, the Swiss headquarters, as the first executive-style president.

After gaining a degree from the Institute of Business Studies, Barcelona, his career was divided between economics, the directorship of banks and the family textiles firm, his diplomatic appointment in Moscow and his recreational work with the Spanish Olympic Committee. What he brought to the IOC, when he was elected in 1980, was the capacity to listen and observe, together with a rare combination of determination and sensitivity to the mood of his colleagues. When elected presi-

dent in 1980, he was virtually unknown outside the committee. An essential change in the mechanics and streamlining of the IOC office was the removal of Monique Berlioux, a redoubtable Frenchwoman who, during the prolonged absences of Brundage and Killanin at home, had assumed much of the presidential role, under the title of "director". Killanin had privately promised colleagues to reduce her power, but failed. However, in a sudden coup at the IOC Session in East Berlin in 1985, Samaranch ousted her, at the price of substantial compensation. She promised retribution in her memoirs, which have yet to appear.

One of Samaranch's innovations was the immediate introduction of women members, starting with Pijo Haggman of Finland and Flor Isaza-Fonseca of Venezuela in 1981. There are six so far, including Mrs Glen Haig and, now, the Princess Royal. Using his influence on the election of new members (by no means absolute), Samaranch has encouraged the influx of young former Olympians, such as the four women just mentioned, Coles of Australia (canoeing), Igaya of Japan (skiing), Schmitt of Hungary (fencing) and DeFrantz of the US (rowing). There have been 39 new members in eight years.

It is, however, in the most controversial areas that his influence has been critical: in professionalism, commercialism, apartheid, drugs and, above all, East-West politics. His knack is not to meet a problem head-on but to accept it and spend weeks or months in discussion until any solution appears to have come not from him but from others. "I am the tool of other people's wishes," he likes to say. Yet occasionally when crossed he can momentarily freeze into stony silence.

As an opponent, his actions are unseen but unerring. "It is

Samaranch more than anyone who has kept the Olympic movement going forward," Kevin Gosper, an Australian executive board member, says. Richard Pound, the Canadian vice-president, is more succinct: "Without him, we wouldn't be in Seoul."

As a professional diplomat, Samaranch has been acutely alarmed at the prospects for Seoul ever since the city was elected in 1981. However, it was not until after the Los Angeles Games in 1984, when he failed to avert the Soviet bloc boycott, that Samaranch was openly confronted by the North Korean threat.

His answer was, shrewdly, to put the ball almost permanently in North Korea's court by offering concessions that might enable them to take part. To do that, he had first to gain the consent of Roh Tae Woo, the present president of state, who was then president of the Seoul organizing committee. A policy of constant attempts to appease North Korea pre-empted criticism from the socialist bloc leaders, apart from Cuba. In ping-pong negotiations, Samaranch played the Pyongyang government at its own game: when it answered his proposals with a totally different set of proposals, he restated his original proposals. A deliberately inserted test case, requesting that an IOC negotiator, Alexandre Siperco of Romania, might travel by road from North to South through Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone, was flatly rejected by Pyongyang. It told Samaranch well in advance that the North would never collaborate.

Undoubtedly Samaranch has been helped by the initiatives of other sporting leaders from both East and West: notably Ivan Slavkov of Bulgaria, and by Dr Kim Un Yong, the South Korean IOC member, originator of Seoul's bid for the Games.

In resolving the issue of "amateurism", and the introduction of professional competitors, Samaranch has been equally dextrous, even if infuriating the traditionalists. His opinion was that if the socialist countries were not to dominate the Games with state-sponsored competitors, Western professionalism had to be admitted. To persuade the socialists of this was a masterstroke. Tennis is even back in the Games after 64 years, because, as Samaranch says: "Unless the Olympic Games includes the world's best athletes, it can never maintain its prestige and survive into the 21st century." Brundage might turn in his grave but de Coubertin, pragmatic founder of the modern Games, would probably welcome the spectacular festival about to begin.

Similarly with commercialism: Samaranch has embraced the advantages of television income and massive revenues from corporate sponsorship because it finances the modern high-technology Games as well as subsidizing the attendance of more than half the 161 nations present.

Earlier this week Samaranch said: "I would like to think these will be remembered as the Games of understanding, reconciliation and peace." If they prove to have been, the credit will be largely his.

David Miller

BIOGRAPHY

1920: Born July 17, Barcelona. Educated at Barcelona Institute of Business Studies. Became economics professor, and Barcelona municipal councillor with responsibility for sport.

1954: Appointed to Spanish Olympic Committee.

1955: Married Maria Teresa Salsichs-Rowe.

1966: Appointed to International Olympic Committee.

1977-80: Spanish Ambassador to USSR and Mongolia, the post-Franco ambassador in Moscow.

1974: Appointed a Vice-President of IOC.

1977-80: President of the International Roller-Skating Federation.

1980: Appointed President of the IOC.



Determined: Samaranch, a former ambassador to Moscow, played diplomatic ping-pong with North Korea

If all else fails, Cats might be the ticket

When other methods of influencing a target have failed, there might be only two choices - buy him, or seduce him.

Gentle bribery, blackmail, lying and cheating are what might be called the sharp end of the game. Remember, when somebody says he isn't in something for the money, but only as a matter of principle - it is usually the money he is after.

An interesting study can be made of why small favours can win great reward when expensive campaigns fail. If this

is the preferred method of working, what you may need are access to free tickets to Cats, Lords, Covent Garden or the Cup Final, crates of gin, beautiful (preferably fallen) women or men, holidays in the Bahamas, suitcases of unmarked greenbacks, or the wherewithal to provide the odd life insurance or knighthood.

Sex is a powerful weapon in the campaign: remember the quote attributed to the pop star Madonna - "losing my virginity was a career move". Sex - or the denial of it - is one of the key influences. It leads to gossip, blackmail, scandal, divorce and violence.

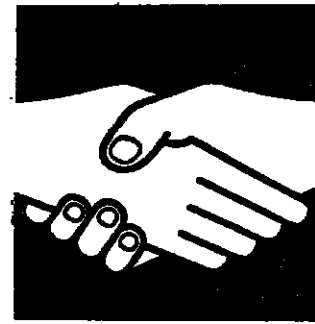
It can be a key to success, but more often is the trap door to failure.

There are other key devices to enable you to get your way. Among the most important are Facts: These are extremely dangerous and must be controlled and revealed only where essential. They are the real reason why open government will never work. The more available the information, the less flexible does decision-making become. Information or disinformation, once in a newspaper clipping library, become facts for ever. Always search for

and present unsettling facts. Causes: If you want to get people behind you, create a cause, even if one does not exist. The basic method is to identify a problem which affects a number of people - for example, the need for a pedestrian crossing on a busy road - and then to invite others to share in the problem-solving process. This creates a mutual bond. You may choose other emotive concepts, such as "motherhood" or "liberty" or "justice", and weld them into your "pedestrian crossing now" cause. Thus, any attack on your little campaign will be an attack on a number of other basic values.

Play on loyalties. Use the old school tie, the team, the regiment or any other tribal loyalty. And use the "pull-through" - i.e. one good concept can pull lesser ones along. Thus: "We must show the world that we will not be bullied" is followed by "We must therefore send warships to the Gulf". "We must cut back drastically on our overheads" is followed by "We must sack Jones".

A cause can also sometimes be developed from quite small differences between potential rivals - differences of personality, policy, approach or creed - which can then be inflated. You must remain aloof from the conflict until the right moment. Fend off both sides if they try to enlist your support. Appear as the honest broker. Let them



INFLUENCE

PART 4

More of the
devious devices
of persuasion
are revealed by
Michael Shea,
from gentle
bribery to
seduction



Share the earth.

In Mindanao in the Philippines, the tribal people whose ancestors grew maize on the hillsides, believe land is a gift of God to human beings.

They cannot understand why they were displaced by settlers who gave them beads and axes to "borrow" their land.

Christian Aid is giving funds to a villagers' organisation that is working for the return of their land.

In southern Ethiopia, Christian Aid is helping 550 families return to farming by providing oxen on credit and new drought-resistant and early-maturing seed.

In El Salvador, in the midst of the civil strife, Christian Aid supports several

thousand refugees who have returned to clear their land for cultivation and re-build wattle-and-daub huts.

This harvest time, help some of the world's poor share the earth.

Every pound helps.
WE'RE GETTING THIRD WORLD
FARMERS BACK ON THEIR LAND

To: Christian Aid, P.O. Box 100, London SE1 7YT.
I enclose cheque/PO for £200 □ £100 □ £50 □ £25 □
£10 □ Other □, or please debit my Access/Bardcard/
American Express/Diners Club No.

or phone 01-620 4444 and ask for Credit Card
department between 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Please send Covenant Form □

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Christian Aid

CHURCHES IN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR.

A light to unlock atomic power

Despite decades of research, the dream of using nuclear fusion to produce limitless amounts of cheap energy is still far from being realized. Now comes word from the University of Rochester in New York State that some of the hurdles may be overcome by harnessing the power of an array of intense laser beams.

Unlike nuclear fission, the reaction which powers conventional nuclear generating stations, nuclear fusion does not require highly-radioactive uranium fuel. Instead, it needs only hydrogen, the simplest of materials, found in abundance in water.

When two atoms of hydrogen are fused to form a single atom of helium, a tremendous amount of energy is released, a fact amply demonstrated by the detonation of hydrogen bombs. But the fusion reaction can only begin when hydrogen

atoms are squeezed together to very high density. And for the energy released to be commercially useable, the reaction must be controlled.

Scientists have been researching two ways of control. In one, an electrically charged gas - a plasma - of hydrogen atoms is contained and compressed by giant magnets, in huge doughnut-shaped "tokamak" fusion machines. The United States, the Soviet Union, Japan and Europe have each spent tens of millions of pounds building tokamaks, with the European machine, JET, near Oxford, currently the world leader.

The other, less well-known strategy uses laser beams to send a brief jolt of energy into a tiny droplet of liquid hydrogen. As the intense energy of the laser beam hits the fuel pellet, the outer layers heat up very rapidly. This sends some

up the material shooting away at high speed, but an equal and opposite force (by Newton's third law) sends a shock wave into the interior of the pellet, compressing it and heating it to extremely high temperatures. It is this approach that the Rochester scientists have used to achieve their recent success, reported in today's issue of *Nature*.

Robert McCrory and his colleagues used the Omega laser facility, a system of 24 beams that converge on a single spot. The fuel pellet is suspended at the point where the laser beams converge by a silk thread taken from a spider that lives in the lab. A thread filled with liquid helium keeps the hydrogen-filled target cool until just before the pulse is delivered.

The goal of the laser experiments is to get the fuel to ignite. When this happens, the

highly compressed core of hydrogen pellet begins to fuse, sending helium atoms out from the centre. The energy these atoms give off is enough to trigger other hydrogen atoms near the centre into fusing, creating more helium atoms that cause more hydrogen atoms to fuse, and so on.

McCrory says that to reach the ignition point, the fuel must be compressed to 1,000 times its normal density. In the most recent experiments, he has been able to compress the fuel to approximately 200 times its normal density, and with some fine tuning he hopes to double that number later this year.

The next stage, achieving ignition, will need a more powerful laser punch than Omega can currently deliver. McCrory is lobbying the US Department of Energy for an

additional \$40 million, which he says will be enough to push the fuel to the critical ignition point. Japanese researchers are not far behind. They, too, have been breaking records and are pushing their government for the yen to build more powerful lasers.

Joseph Palca

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In *The Times/RICS* conservation awards, reported on Tuesday, the second prize in the educational category was awarded to the Willows and Wetlands Centre (entered by Christopher and Anne Coate) and the third prize was shared between the Giant's Causeway Centre (entered by Andris Berzins and Associates) and the Elan Valley Visitor Centre, Rhayader (entered by the Welsh Water Authority).

MEDIA MOULDING

Here are 10 delicate rules for attempting to get your way with the media:

- 1 Get the news out in your terms first. Make it interesting. If you leak first, others will feel constrained to follow.
- 2 Denials seldom work. Never deny an allegation if you can help it. Do not over-react to a small or even a medium-sized error. Rise above it, ride it out. If you sue, you will usually be damned.
- 3 Second versions seldom work, particularly if the first version was more exciting. (The bishop wasn't in the brothel; he was visiting a sick aunt.)
- 4 Put your story out just before the deadline, giving the opposition no chance to deny or contradict it.
- 5 Use embargoes to heighten attention and to give the media time to research the background, if that is likely to work in your favour.
- 6 Guard against the media's "too good to check" excuse. Tabloid journalists don't ring to check an unsubstantiated rumour since it may be denied and they would be forced to kill the story. This can also be used to your advantage.
- 7 Go for the top media opinion-former (that is, the person who has the most influence) and concentrate on them.
- 8 Give a memorable quote.
- 9 Think media-genic. A good picture to back up a good story always wins over a line that is hard to illustrate.
- 10 You will never have it all your own way. The media can be stubborn when they want.

TOMORROW

Friends, allies
and influence

Extracted from *Influence: How to Make the System Work for You*, by Michael Shea, published on September 22 (Century: £10.95).

HEALTH

So, who needs therapy?

Next week medical experts will meet to discuss the estimated 60 per cent suffering from sexual problems. Liz Gill reports

It is a brave man or woman who will even admit to having a sex problem, let alone seek help for it. More than in any other field of human endeavour we tend to speak only of our successes; failures are swept under the bedroom carpet.

Yet sexual misery is widespread and profound. Relate Marriage Guidance has waiting lists for its sexual therapy clinics as well as its marriage counselling. Currently those seeking sex therapy will have to wait an average of three months, in one or two areas the delay could be as long as a year. Research in America has suggested that between 60 and 70 per cent of relationships encounter "significant" sexual problems at some time or other. Dr Elizabeth Stanley, chairman of the Association of Sexual and Marital Therapists in Britain, believes the figure may be appropriate here as well.

Moreover, the legacy of the permissive society may have made matters worse. "Everyone now gets the impression that everyone else is having a better time than they are," she says.

The association has around 200 members drawn from a variety of disciplines, including medicine, psychology and nursing. Most base their approach on a combination of behavioural and psycho-dynamic therapies. The former involves unlearning "faulty" behaviour and relearning it in a healthy way; the latter is concerned with resolving unconscious conflicts stemming from childhood. Wherever possible a therapist sees both partners.

"We treat the relationship," says Stanley, senior lecturer in human sexuality at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. "Sexual problems involve the intra-personal, the baggage you bring from childhood into adulthood, and the inter-personal which are unique to that relationship." Fees for treatment range from £15 to £50 an hour.

Not everyone has the courage to present their problem to a sex therapist. Dr Prue Tunbridge, the scientific director of The Institute of Psycho-Sexual Medicine, which is having a conference in Leicester next week, believes many more people are likely to appear at their GPs with contraceptive problems, infertility, even backaches, when there may be an underlying sexual difficulty. With this in mind, the institute trains doctors to address sexual problems in the course of their work, to pick up signals during physical examination. Between 200

and 300 people, including psychiatrists, GPs, gynaecologists and venereal disease specialists are in training at any one time.

Dr Judy Gilley is a north London GP and senior lecturer in General Practice at the Royal Free Hospital. She believes that working the "front line" enables her to spot problems that patients might be afraid to mention or even recognize.

"You may, for instance, get persistent difficulties with contraception, which suggest an underlying sexual unhappiness. Or there may be a request for a termination from a woman who has not been using any contraceptive because she has doubts about her femininity and wants to test it. Or you may have a very young woman wanting sterilization when she is trying to obliterate that part of herself."

A patient's attitude to a physical examination can be particularly revealing. "If a woman says as she hops up on the couch for an internal 'Oh, this must be awful for you,' she may be talking about her own feelings about her body. It's a question of picking up on things."

The most common difficulties for women are non-arousal, loss of desire, failure to reach orgasm, pain on intercourse and vaginismus where an involuntary spasm closes the vagina. For men they include inability to achieve, maintain or control erection, premature ejaculation and failure to ejaculate at all.

Stanley says she may occasionally, if couples wish, give a practical anatomy lesson. Otherwise, she stresses, therapists' help is strictly verbal. The use of trained surrogate partners is now, in the wake of Aids, almost unknown. "Certainly no reputable therapist would ever suggest sex with a client. If you meet anyone like that, run a thousand miles," she advises.

"People often have very unrealistic expectations and they are also very ignorant, especially about female anatomy and female sexual response. The trouble with failure is that it steps up a vicious circle, more anxiety, more likelihood of failure and so on."

"And there are some very destructive myths around: the idea that men are born knowing what to do to arouse a woman and that having to ask makes them less of a man; the idea that good sex just happens; it doesn't have to be talked about; the idea that lovers can read each other's minds. Resentment corrodes the sexual response. You've heard of the expression 'impotent with rage'."



The association's therapists, therefore, look for the cause and its possible remedy, usually setting homework tasks such as touching exercises to increase sensuality and ways of improving communication skills.

"You cannot treat sex in isolation," Stanley says. "You can't give an antibiotic like you can for tonsillitis. Men in particular tend to say sex is the only problem, everything else is perfect. In fact it's often the other way round and when you get the rest right sex sorts itself out."

So far only 160 consultants (10 per cent of its therapists) have been specially trained by Relate to help couples where sex is the primary problem. Not everyone who seeks therapy is offered it, however. Sometimes an initial consultation puts it secondary to other concerns. Once on a programme couples can expect to attend 12 or 14 hourly sessions.

"You may be undoing a problem

that's been around for years," says Alison Clegg, Relate's marital and sexual therapy training officer. "Some couples are lying at the very edges of a double bed, terrified of the slightest touch."

Their approach is mainly behavioural, with the counsellor helping a couple to establish realistic goals and then tailoring a series of exercises to be done at home. "Here we are very precise and open about everything and we use whatever language a client is comfortable with. I generally use a mixture of the scientific and the vernacular."

Progress is monitored before, during and after therapy; for instance, the couple and their therapist mark on a nought to eight scale their feelings and attitudes at various stages. A follow-up consultation comes three months after the last session and fees vary according to the client's means.

Tunbridge thinks that sexual problems can be marriage wreckers. "They make people dreadfully unhappy. They can break up homes,

lose people their jobs. Some people muddle along, sex is not very important, but where it does matter it matters enormously. It can make or mar a relationship."

"So much of sex is a matter of confidence, of trusting your instinct. But as a society, we have always tended to be prohibitive. Perhaps we should be more positive about sex."

Overall, success rates have never been independently assessed, but all practitioners seem optimistic and speak of the actual physical changes that take place when sufferers find help. Stanley says people "positively glow. The women seem prettier, the men smarter. They look 10 years younger."

Clegg points out that Relate's success rates are high because the couples set their own goals. She adds: "It is lovely to see how different people look — often very quickly — and how their body language changes. Sometimes we look out of the window and see them actually arm in arm again."

All in a day's surgery work

SECOND OPINION

Chris Cornish

Hard on the heels of commuter travel and commuter stress, commuter surgery has come of age. The nine-to-five operation has been born out of economic necessity. At Lewisham hospital it has reduced waiting lists and freed ward beds for major surgery. But at what cost to the comfort of the patient?

I needed to have a vein removed from my leg, 21 stitches, a general anaesthetic and I would be back home by five, or so I thought.

As the young surgeon rushed into the examining room to see me, his pager beeped. He traced the line of the vein with a felt tip pen and explained: "I am going to cut here and here." So saying he lunged for the telephone. Conversation over, he turned to me brandishing a razor. "I am afraid you are going to have to shave your leg yourself," he said before rushing off.

The day surgery unit at Lewisham has been open for more than a year, and more than 1,000 operations have been performed, including abortions, vasectomies and hernias. Candidates for day surgery are first screened by consultants, who check that they are generally fit and have someone to collect them and care for them for at least a day.

"It is clearly cheaper per operation," said Vivien Rhodes, director of nursing at Lewisham. "We use less nursing time, less doctor time and save on domestic and porterage money."

Did patients really want to commute to hospital? Rhodes was emphatic: more than 90 per cent of patients preferred day surgery.

She did sometimes worry about how people managed at home. "For instance, we terminate 10 pregnancies in a morning, twice a week. The day surgery unit is very useful for people who might need a termination quite quickly but we usually do not see them again and so we do not get any feedback."

Day surgery has been around for a long time, but a combination of economic necessity and improving medical technology have put it high on the agenda in recent years. In Southampton, well-organized units have functioned since 1969 and they now treat more than 8,000 patients annually.

An apostle of the cause is Dr Tom Ogg, a consultant anaes-

thetist who is also Director of the Day Surgery Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

The unit opened in January 1984 and so far it has undertaken more than 12,000 operations. In a hospital that houses 17 operating theatres, the single theatre used by the day surgery unit undertakes 15 per cent of all cases. Waiting lists have fallen by 30 per cent.

"Everyone benefits from the reduction in waiting lists," says Ogg. "But also at Cambridge we are able to use a very high percentage, over 80 per cent, of consultant surgeons and anaesthetists in the unit. It is also great for children. There are real psychological benefits in keeping children out of hospital."

Ogg said that it was also good for people pushed for time, such as the self-employed and women with children at home.

"By keeping people out of hospital we also reduce the risk of them picking up a secondary infection. And it is also far easier to recruit some of the 200,000 nurses who have left the profession to work in a unit where, in general, 'office hours' operate."

My own experience indicates that day surgery may not be as simple as it seems. By six o'clock I was still in the hospital and still could not dress myself. The nurse was consulting the doctor on whether she could find me a bed for the night. She, too, presumably should have left by now, and I knew she was not being paid overtime.

"It is not unusual for this to happen," she told me. "I do feel sorry for some of the patients having to get up so quickly after a general anaesthetic but there just are not the beds for people to stay in." Eventually, with the help of a wheelchair, I made it to a car. I had been on the waiting list for two years, and without the day surgery unit I would still be waiting. Despite the benefits of the system, I would have been reassured if both surgery and recovery could have been carried out at a more stately pace.

Problems above the belt

John Conteh has deserted the boxer's ring for the film set. In a recent production his role involved tweaking the breasts of Carol-Lynn Cortez, a topless model.

According to reports, Miss Cortez claimed that after the fifth retake her breasts were black and blue. It is most unlikely that Miss Cortez will suffer any lasting harm from her alleged experience, but the Victorians always regarded the breasts as being vulnerable to minor trauma and thought that a blow was a possible cause of cancer.

Until recently the accepted view was that an injury merely drew the attention of the doctor and patient to a breast and hence to the discovery of a lump.

However, statistics have now shown that the Victorians may after all have had a point, albeit a small one. Figures have demonstrated that cancer is more common in the left than the right breast, although the reason for this is unknown. Doctors have argued that as most men are right handed any minor trauma a breast suffers during lovemaking would be more likely to affect the woman's left side. Recently social workers have offered another explanation. After studying quarrelsome households they have

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford



John Conteh: making a film career

suggested that breasts are not only affected by amorous behaviour but by being struck; apparently drunken men tottering back from the pub frequently belabour their wives, but as they are

heavily intoxicated are too feeble to hit them on the face — so that the blows land on the breasts, usually the left breast.

Notwithstanding these theories, most injuries to the breasts are, medically speaking, unimportant. But they may result in two conditions which create diagnostic problems. A sharp blow can cause bleeding into the breast without actual bruising of the overlying skin, the blood collects in the tissue and feels like a small lump, a haematoma, which it is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish without special tests from a tumour.

Middle-aged women with large breasts are also liable to suffer damage to the fat which makes up the greater part of any breast. When damaged, the fat also feels like a cancer and to add to the confusion — is, like some cancers, quite painless. Although the condition — traumatic fat necrosis — is harmless, it is alarming and needs an immediate expert opinion.

Men, too, suffer from fat necrosis, but with them the lump is felt in the fatty pad which develops in obese patients over the pubic bone; this is probably related to trauma during intercourse.

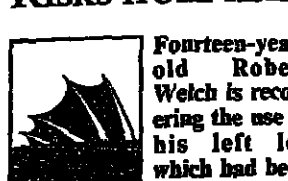
No joke



Bright red noses have always been treated as a subject for mirth. The joke has become institutionalized in the clown's scarlet nose, and the red nose of the drunk on the seaside postcard. In fact, most people regard a red bulbous nose as unattractive rather than amusing, and nobody is more aware of this than a patient with rosacea. Rosacea is a chronic inflammatory condition affecting the centre of the face, particularly the nose, which, as well as becoming red, is enlarged (rhinophyma) and is subject to pustules and papules superficially like acne. Contrary to the popular view, and despite the restrictions often placed on tea and coffee drinking as well as whisky, there is little association with diet, so it is grossly unfair to see the large red nose as the hallmark of the drunkard. The advent of the broad spectrum antibiotics, particularly oxytetracycline, has eased the plight of the sufferer. But although they are reasonably effective in controlling the acneiform rash, they sometimes do little for the nose's overall size or colour. Surgery is sometimes

needed to reduce its bulk. Recent work in America reported in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings has shown that the condition can be helped by using the argon laser, which by lightening the nose's colour will save the patient the embarrassment of ill-considered ribaldry.

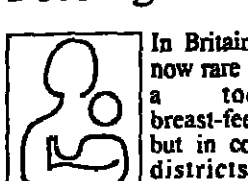
Risks from fish



Fourteen-year-old Robert Welch is recovering the use of his left leg which had been paralysed by stepping on the spine of a weaver fish while on the beach on the Gower Coast in Wales. In northern Europe we are fortunate to have few poisonous fish, unlike the Americans who have to contend with many warm sea species which may accumulate toxin in their meat, their skins or even in the mucus they secrete. Perhaps the greatest risk in Britain from fish lies in eating shellfish contaminated by feeding fish in areas where raw sewage has been deposited near their breeding grounds. The usual organism responsible is one of the thousand or so varieties of salmonella, but shellfish also pick up viruses, as well as the

enteroviruses which cause diarrhoea and vomiting. They are a frequent vehicle for spreading hepatitis A, the common form of jaundice, or even polio. But housewives at this time of the year should also beware of stale mackerel, as when bacteria act on the red flesh it starts to decompose and as it does so produces a histamine-like substance which can cause scombroid poisoning, characterized by a flushed face, nausea, vomiting and an articular (nettle-like) rash.

Feeding time



In Britain it is now rare to see a toddler breast-feeding, but in country districts 30 years ago it was still a comparatively common practice. It may not have been done for special love of the child, but because women regarded it wrongly as a form of birth control. In fact, breast-feeding only inhibits ovulation, and hence prevents pregnancy, if it is carried out on demand and therefore at far more frequent intervals than the usual four hour regime. In other parts of the world prolonged breast-feeding is still

common and is even encouraged by health workers who think that by doing so the baby will be spared the prevailing malnutrition. A recent study from Ghana published in The Lancet showed that the converse is true; breast-feeding after the age of 19 months reduces children's appetite, restricts their diet and therefore predisposes them to undernourishment. Further evidence of the advantages of breast-feeding has been provided by a study from America, also reported in The Lancet, which has shown, contrary to earlier research in Britain, that a possible association exists between resistance to childhood cancer, particularly lymphoma, and breast-feeding for more than six months. In a comparatively small research project, 200 children with cancer were compared with an equal number of healthy controls; five times as many cases of lymphoma were found in those who were not breast-fed at all, or had only been breast-fed for a short time, than in those who had been suckled for more than six months. British doctors have warned that nobody should become too worried by these statistics until the trial has been repeated on a larger scale and the findings confirmed.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

An apology

We are sorry that because of the postal dispute we have not been able to give you our normal standard of service in recent days. Our service to customers depends very much on the postal system. Normal service cannot be restored all at once, and we ask our customers to be patient until we are back to normal.

Priority Repayments

We are giving top priority to urgent repayments and withdrawals which would cause severe hardship to customers if there is further delay. If you have already applied for money to be paid back to you or need to do so in the next few days here is the telephone number of the National Savings Office which will be handling your case:

Savings Certificate (Durham)	091-374 5016
Yearly Plan (Durham)	091-374 5285
SAYE (Durham)	091-374 5550
Income Bonds (Blackpool)	0253-79 3489
Deposit Bonds (Glasgow)	041-636 2909
Investment Account (Glasgow)	041-636 2910
Ordinary Account (Glasgow)	041-636 2911
Premium Bonds (Lytham St Annes)	0253-71 5354
Gilts on the Stock Register (Blackpool)	0253-79 3118

Please ring us (between 9 am and 5 pm) if you really do have an urgent need for your money to avoid hardship.

A request to other customers

It would help us a lot if other customers do not ring or write for the time being about any other delays, as this could hold up our efforts to restore normal service.

Legal Liability

National Savings is not able to accept any liability for delays in the post.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

Invitations, as I feared, are beginning to come in for Olympics supper parties. The common pattern seems to be: turn up at 10 for drinks, tie on nosebag 10.30, clear plates by midnight, switch on, speculate at night, crawl home at dawn. Thus, those at a zenith of fitness half a world away are set to reduce those of us back home to a nadir of decrepitude.

Yet worse, two of the invitations we have so far received excitedly hint that books will be set up on the events: in true Olympic spirit, revellers will be encouraged to make a bob or two out of the proceedings. The object is not only to win, but to take money.

Intrigued as to how far this notion might have caught on globally, I rang William Hill, who tipped me some intriguing, if dispiriting, winks as to the upcoming shenanigans. Money was indeed sluicing in, said William, and what he called the "liveliest book" was on Britain's gold-haul — the hot favourite being a gloomy 15 to 8 that we come home with just the one. More optimistic patriots can get 12 to 1 for the belief that we will pull four golds, and fantasists a very long 100 to 1 against our winning eight. As for individual performances, our surest gold, apparently, is neither Cram nor Thompson but Liz McColgan in the women's 10,000 metres.

Serious punters will, I discovered, stay well away from even her, preferring to take the Orwellian view that four legs are better than two. Or, as William put it, "a professional never puts money on anything that talks".

What with death moaning and singing on our boulevards as diplomats, soldiers, villains and crackpots express their views in lead, I felt it no bad time to drop into my local nick to ascertain how the current firearms amnesty was coming along. According to the newspapers, the national picture was all very cheering, with howitzers and doodlebugs and old torpedo-boats piling up so encouragingly that it might very soon be safe to start taking the dog out again. What, then, of North London?

Yes, said the duty sergeant at West Hampstead Police Station, we have had a Response. What kind of Response, I inquired? We have had six cartridges handed in, said the sergeant.

The point is, should I take this to be a soothing indication of local innocence, or exactly the opposite?

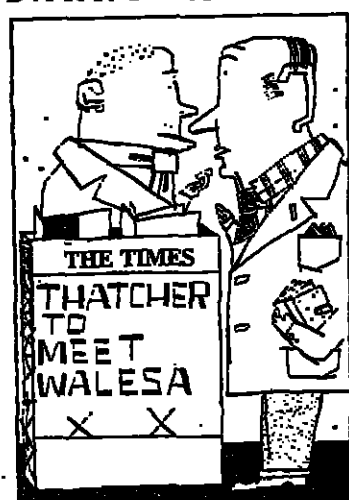
Call it the enterprise culture, call it old-fashioned luck, but it is not every day that a humble suburban lavatory gets the chance to become spokesman for a major building society.

Not that I was, all things considered, a bad lavatory. A shade ribald, perhaps, but fundamentally worthy. All in all, a decent sort of bog. The year was 1980, and though mine was by no stretch of the ear a household voice, it had, by dint of a little facetious broadcasting, come to the attention of a small advertising agency charged with offloading a new aerosol germicide onto a general public it had persuaded to fret about porcelain susceptibility.

The agency, its letter explained, had shot a 30-second animated cartoon starring an anthropoid privy, and was looking for someone to speak its lines. So, lured by the familiar rumours — I was also at that time, writing a series for Leonard Rossiter, who rarely ignored an opportunity to point out that he was getting 50 times as much for chucking Cinzano over Joan Collins as he was for spouting my tripe — I hurried to a cellar in Broadwick Street, where the agency projected the cartoon on to the wall of my recording booth. The lavatory's lid and seat went up and down, amusingly likable, and I had to keep repeating, synchronously, "What a difference a spray makes!" until man and latrine were as one. I also had to chortle a bit, as only lavatories can.

They gave me £200, which Rossiter said was the smallest amount ever earned in a Soho afternoon by anyone. The ad never went out. I stayed by the telephone for a year or two, but when the news broke that Stallone had decided to cast himself as Rocky, I finally chuckled in the thespian sponge.

BARRY FANTONI



'Probably to talk over how it feels to be unpopular with the unions'

And then, last Thursday, eight years on, another call came, this time from a very swell agency indeed. Abbott Meade Vickers wished to know whether I was available to embody anything less than the corporate identity of a building society so leading that half the country is in hock to it. Why me, I wondered? Had they seen my chuckling dunny? Was it a byword still, wherever creative departments foregathered? AMV demurred; just have to off Soho Square tomorrow afternoon, was the message, and let the chips fall where they may.

A booth again, a little firm, a headpiece, a mike. But this time, no jocular plumbing was required, rather the firm smack of executive gravitas. I was, I think, rather good. A bit like Trevor Howard. I would have taken out a mortgage with me like a shot, or, alternatively, have emptied my own jingling sock into that corporate coffey.

Yesterday, AMV sent me a little note and a couple of consolatory bottles. Pretty good bottles, but you'd get change out of £200. I seem to have gone downhill a bit since my heyday.

As Mrs Thatcher's international reputation spreads, she attracts more and more improbable admirers. Her major excursion of the early autumn diplomatic travelling season is to Poland where, one of that country's diplomats told me recently, she is popular everywhere.

I must have raised my eyebrow at this. "Oh no", he replied with a grin, "she is popular with the opposition because of her stance on Gorbachov. But she is popular too with the party and the government because of her attitude to trade unions".

Next week the Prime Minister pays a call on another superficially unlikely fan, Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister. In spite of heading a Socialist government and notwithstanding a long list of formal disagreements, González makes little secret of his admiration for Mrs Thatcher and of his low opinion of the British Labour Party. Their previous diplomatic contacts, almost all at EEC summits, have been cordial. González described Thatcher's intervention at this year's Nato summit stressing caution over Gorbachov to his officials as "brilliant" — while, of course, publicly disagreeing with its emphasis.

Mr González's critics would say that his weakness for Mrs Thatcher's personality and policies only underlines the extent to which his own personality and

George Brock previews the Prime Minister's visit to Spain next week

Thatcher's Socialist fan

policy changed once he took up residence in the Moncloa Palace in 1982. Perhaps the most pressing of many reasons for a British prime minister to visit Spain now is that it is a chance to watch a European country in a phase of change perhaps faster than any experienced by its counterparts in the post-war era.

In the ten years or so since the death of Franco, Spain has adjusted to parliamentary democracy, survived an attempted military coup, achieved the highest economic growth rate in Europe, joined Nato (although not its military command structure) and the European Community. In Spain, 1992 means not only the planned completion of the Single Market but the Olympic Games in Barcelona, the World Fair in Seville and the commemoration of the discovery of America. Inside the Spanish political class, the first six months of next year have been the only preoccupation of many minds for many months now.

In January, Spain takes over for the first time — the rotating presidency of the EEC. It is the

symbol to many officials and politicians of Spain's emergence from diplomatic isolation and entry to the European club. British Cabinet Office officials were astonished, more than two years ago, to be receiving their Spanish counterparts, who were then beginning their advance work on how they should carry out their responsibilities in the EEC in 1989.

Spain was not only isolated by Franco. His rule came at the end of a century and a half in which Spain had been marginal to European history after the collapse of its empire and national self-confidence. Franco's foreign policy was dictated by the need to win respectability and paralysed by the failure to achieve much of it. Since his death, Spain has moved quickly back into the European and Atlanticist mainstream while recreating its diplomatic links with the rest of the world. Under Franco, Anglo-Spanish relations were dominated by Gibraltar, an issue which, while still tricky, is sliding gently down the agenda. Spain's relations with Nato

and the United States have been edged and by no means stabilized yet. González held a referendum in 1986 and public opinion reluctantly accepted membership short of participation in the military command. Spanish involvement is thus similar to France's, although technically a little closer.

Gibraltar, a question which is clearly not going to be resolved at all rapidly, is one obstacle in the way of full Spanish military engagement — since it would mean partnership with military facilities on Gibraltar, where Spain does not recognize British sovereignty. There are those who believe that even a conservative Spanish government — not at all likely in the near future — would find this an insurmountable problem if they wanted to upgrade their Nato commitment. There has been a long series of fraught discussions about the status and number of US bases.

But the real engine of contemporary Spanish optimism is the economy. From the restricted base of the mid-century years, it has raced to catch up. González,

like socialist leaders elsewhere, has followed the three strands of change common to many industrial economies during the Eighties: greater flexibility in labour markets, increased control of public expenditure and tighter monetary targets.

Economists differ as to the merits or otherwise of particular elements of macro-economic management, but these debates are sidelined by one indisputable fact. Spain has created an image of a booming economy which welcomes foreign investment. Foreign money is flooding in: direct foreign investment in Spanish industry and services — already high and rising — rose by 41 per cent in the first six months of this year. Mrs Thatcher's briefing will include the view of British businessmen in Spain that British businessmen are behind their European competitors in the race for prime positions in an economy well-placed for the European Single Market.

González and Thatcher can hardly be expected to agree on the strategic European questions of the moment. He and his

government would like to be in the vanguard of greater European unity (currently taking the form of a central bank and single currency). She and her colleagues are digging in against the trend towards central institutions or federalism.

But González is well aware that in matters of European negotiation, Mrs Thatcher's initial stance is often more vocal (and therefore better publicized) than her later pragmatism. González, and his close ally, François Mitterrand, know that if Britain is to wield any influence in European debates, it cannot stand aside from the agenda and it cannot withdraw from the EEC. The developments after 1992 are now the agenda in Spain, as elsewhere.

... As in the climate, so in the temperament of the people, there is an absence of gentle gradation. The historian H.A.L. Fisher wrote with witty condescension in 1935. "Nothing is consecutive. Riot follows siesta, siesta follows riot. Long spells of political passiveness are broken by sudden spasms of violent disorder". The raucous anti-Spanish racism of the British hooligans and their tabloid newspapers are the lineal descendants of that superior attitude.

It may be out of date. "One day", said an Englishman long resident in Madrid the other day, "Britain will wake up and we'll be trailing in their wake."

Bernard Levin

If I were a rich man...

Those frightful rogues, the Hunt brothers of Texas, have at last brought home to them a number of offences relating to their huge silver scam nearly a decade ago: no doubt this almost limitless opportunities for re-hearings and appeals that the American system of justice offers to litigants with enough money and time will prolong the story well into the next century. But I am not concerned with that aspect of the case, or indeed with the case itself. As a life-long serendipitist, *J'emporte mon bien d'où je le trouve*, and the item that caught my fancy was the merest throw-away line at the end of the story as I read it in *The Sunday Times*. It said that the Hunts' fortune, "once estimated at \$5 billion, is now just \$1 billion".

Well, poor old them: perhaps we should get up a collection. Mind you, a billion dollars in one-dollar bills, laid end to end, would stretch for somewhat more than 100,000 miles — four times round the Equator, or thereabouts, and would weigh a little under 300 tons. Let us not get up a collection. Instead, let us think about money. Let us think about lots of money.

When that other frightful rogue, Bernie Cornfeld, was operating his own scam (small potatoes compared to the Hunts'), but even the tiniest baby is loved by its mother, the slogan which he used to galvanize his agents, who were, after all, signing up the clients, was "Do you sincerely want to be rich?" (As I recall, the book of *The Sunday Times* exposé had that phrase for a title.) It is a ringing and unambiguous question, and most of us would answer "Yes" to it. Of course, most of us would also add a proviso: not if it involves illegality or wickedness. But on the whole, all but the most saintly figures would indeed sincerely want to be rich.

Now rich? has no fixed and absolute meaning. To the man who sleeps on the pavement in Calcutta, acquiring a couple of

hundred rupees (some £13) would mark so stupendous a fortune that the shock could well kill him. In relative western affluence terms, I suppose hitting the Treble Chance jackpot and collaring a million or so would be of a similar effect. (Do Littlewoods take care to break the news gently? They should.) But what if the Littlewoods million is multiplied a thousand-fold, or several thousands-fold? At that point, the amount of money instantly ceases to have any meaning. For all of us, all the way up to people with a few million pounds, there is what I may call a job-ceiling: the ordinary affluent person will think nothing of blowing, say, a tenner, but will jib at a fifty; as we move up the affluence ladder, the job-ceiling is naturally higher, and eventually a man who wouldn't notice if £10,000 went out of his account would jib at half a million.

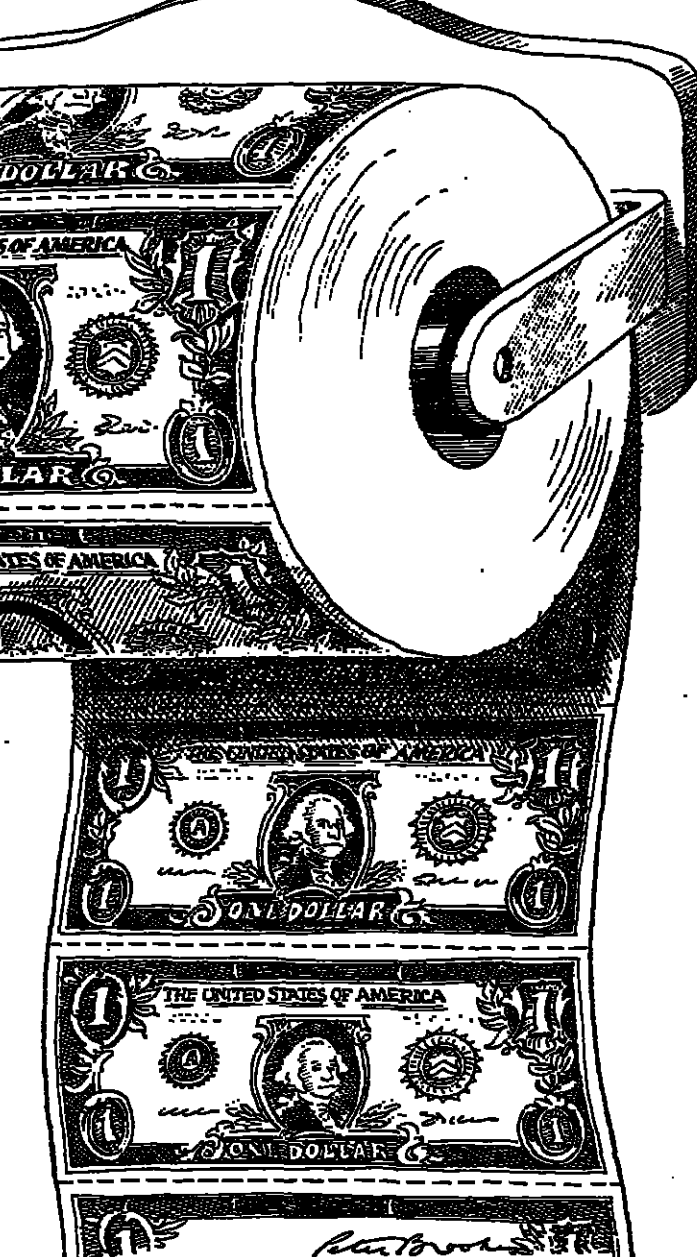
And so on. But for the few, the billionaires, nature's laws are suspended: they have no jibbing-point at all. A pound, to them, is exactly the same as a thousand, as ten thousand, as a hundred thousand. The test is this: can you buy, easily, anything in the world that is for sale? If you can, you are sincerely rich.

Very well, but what is all this leading to? It is leading to the psychology of men who have billions and who cannot stop seeking ways to acquire more billions. The other day, I was writing about the obsessions of Mr Tiny Rowland and Lord Forte, who still long to own Harrods and the Savoy respectively. But that is not the same thing, for the driving force in their campaigns is obviously not the wish to become richer. For that matter, it is plain that both Mr Murdoch and Mr Maxwell, who have little else in common, go buying more properties not because they will have more money, but because they love the chase and the kill, and are stimulated by the exhilaration of riding the whirl-

wind. And, actually, they do share one other characteristic: they both clearly enjoy life and their money. Murdoch is the more discreet, and Maxwell the more naive, but however they respectively define the good things in life, they savour those things. Have you ever seen Holmes a Court smiling?

I am not going to fall into the pit of the belief that much money makes the owners unhappy; it does some — the miser, for instance — but those who take comfort from the thought that millionaires and upwards all suffer from stomach ulcers and insomnia are kidding themselves. Yet the paradox remains: the Brothers Hunt are, we learn, down to their last billion, whereas formerly they had five. Still, before they had five they must have had only four, and before that three, and — well, you can't quite call it clogs in three generations, but since a man, indeed a family, who has a billion can buy anything buyable, what must they go on piling it up? They ended on the wrong side of the law, but plenty

who pile up the billions do so in a perfectly blameless manner. Why? There is another question, too. What do you do with a couple of billion? Even if you eat a hundredweight of caviare a week, it will not so much as dent



the fortune: if you endow a dozen Oxford colleges and buy Centre Point just for the pleasure of pulling it down, you still wouldn't notice the cost, much less ponder it. What is more, if you suddenly decide to spend the rest of your life in a monastic

order which enjoins strict poverty on its members, you would find that half of the aforesaid rest of your life would be spent in giving the money away, what with trustees and charity commissioners and capital gains tax and begging letters and for all I know VAT as well; I dare say that the number of billionaires who have not joined the Franciscans is eloquent testimony to the difficulties encountered.

Would I like to be as rich as that? Hand on heart, no. There was a Chinese sage who said that he did not mind having only one shirt and one horse, since no man can wear two shirts at once, or ride on two horses. I am not quite in that position, but there are very few things indeed which I want very badly, which money can buy, and which I cannot afford, and I assure you that that is not because I am rich but because I have a very limited acquisitiveness. There was a man who, told that you can't take it with you, replied firmly: "Then I'm not going to go"; he must have been a billionaire. (And he presumably went in the end.)

Whatever we recognize as riches, there will always be someone with more, and someone with less. I am not at all sure which is in the story of the two old, poor and ragged Jews sitting on a park bench in the sunshine. After a long silence, one of them says: "Abie, you know what I would like?" "No, Moishe, what would you like?" "I would like to get up off this bench, and go out of the park, and find a whole mountain made of solid gold. That's what I would like." A pause ensues, then his friend speaks. "Moishe, tell me — if you did get up off the bench, and go out of the park, and go round the corner, and find a whole mountain of solid gold, tell me, would you give me a piece of it?" "I like that," says the other indignantly, "wish yourself a mountain".

Commentary • ELIE KEDOURIE

Politics of the impossible

The United States "has three great advantages — a single market, a single currency and a single language". Lord Cockfield's emphasis on these three points (*The Times*, July 25) was obviously meant to highlight the economic advantages to be reaped if Europe were as large a market as the US.

A single European market may enhance the general prosperity on the assumption that free trade optimizes welfare. At present, however, it manages significantly to distort and misallocate resources, notoriously the outcome of the common agricultural policy. M Delors' recent address to the TUC, with its mild words about promoting "social dialogue", must be read as the prophecy of an EEC brimful with benevolent centralizing "harmonizers", whose delight will be to regulate the economy with a mass of uniform, detailed and meticulous rules.

But even if free trade and a free market become a reality, this does not mean that gains will be uniformly spread: who wins and who loses is anybody's guess. Nor is it a foregone conclusion that a single European currency which will have to be managed by a European central bank and a super-finance minister will avoid the mistakes and misjudgements which the central bankers and finance ministers of the several states (the US included) have made.

A single currency has far wider implications and repercussions than simply for a successful economic policy. That a single currency circulates in the US is

one consequence of the fact that there exists a federal government whose powers cover the whole territory, and which acknowledges no superior. Would economic unification in the EEC not come sooner or later to require political union, endowed with a central authority holding sway, in respect of certain functions at any rate, over its various components?

Political union of Western Europe was the distant ideal of so many figures who popularized and worked to set up the institutions of the EEC. Is such an ideal capable of being realized? The analogy with the United States is very misleading. Europe is composed of states, many of which are ancient political entities, distinct from one another not only in point of language, but also of cultural traditions and ways of attending to political issues.

So much is obvious. Equally obvious is the difficulty of imagining how a political union can come into existence. The difficulty looms particularly large for Britain. When this country had a world-wide empire, and its navy ruled the seas, it twice chose the option of a continental commitment: once when Sir Edward Grey became somehow committed to the French before 1914; and again when in 1939 Chamberlain cornered himself into giving a guarantee to Poland, which, whatever else it led to, certainly could provide neither security nor independence for Poland. There is, of course, no telling now whether the undertaking

could have been avoided, but what is clear is that its consequences were ruinous.

A European union, unprecedented in British history, would signify a continental commitment much more binding than the two previous ones which involved Britain in two long and calamitous wars. Can the union of so many disparate countries issue in a coherent policy, and through what institutions would policy be formulated and conducted?

The sheet-anchor of this country's post-war security is Nato, in which the principal partner is the United States. How would incorporation in a union, many members of which are mistrustful and sometimes downright antagonistic towards the transatlantic connection, square with the maintenance of Nato? Though US-British relations have by no means always been plain sailing, they rest on enough shared attitudes and common traditions to prevent a deep and lasting estrangement. Would the same hold true were Britain to be submerged in a European union? There are so many awkward and ticklish questions which are not often asked, and to which no one can pretend to have an answer.

Nor are they made any less perplexing by the very volatile and intermittently disastrous antecedents of the politics with whom Britain would have to join in such a union. Whether through good luck or the wisdom of its political leaders Britain has enjoyed for generations now a stable, constitutional mode of government in which the citizen

has not had to fear for his freedom and where legality is the accepted norm and test for all official action.

This is far from having been the case on the continent where, since the French Revolution, a disagreeable, visionary and destructive style of politics has been in the habit of now and again erupting. It was indeed inaugurated by the French revolutionaries with their passion for what Tocqueville called the politics of the impossible. Spain and Greece have a political record of instability and violent civil wars. Germany fell into the hands of criminals who used the resources of a powerful state to realize in their full horror murderous designs which no one had hitherto dared imagine, let alone execute.

What is to hold such a disparate union together? External threat is undoubtedly present, but will it necessarily serve to promote solidarity? The German threat in the 1930s until — and beyond — the 11th hour elicited among Germany's neighbours not solidarity, but *débâcle* and *saute-qui-peut*.

In response to a similar future threat would the placatory and the timorous not be likely to predominate among the managers of a European union? For the solidarity which inspires courage and a stout heart comes from loyalty to a way of life, from attachment to institutions which inspire trust and affection. And where in the remote, impersonal, soulless bureaux of Brussels are they to be found? The author is Professor of Politics at London University.

SEPT 15 ON THIS DAY 1922

Captain de Havilland, later Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, OM, did more than design gliders, for he became a household name in aircraft design. Mr Cobham, mentioned in the report, later Sir Alan Cobham, was famous for air circuses, long-distance flights and development of flight re-fuelling.

NEW BRITISH GLIDER
THE DE HAVILLAND MACHINE
(By Our Aeronautical Correspondent)

The glider which Captain de Havilland has designed is now being built at the aircraft works at Stag Lane, Edgware. It will be finished in about three weeks' time, and tests will then be made with it by Mr Cobham, the principal test pilot of the de Havilland firm, and the airman who was placed third in the race for the King's Cup.

The de Havilland glider is a monoplane with a wing span of forty feet. The fuselage is arranged with the pilot's seat in front and totally enclosed. A light undercarriage of the DH type is being fitted.

The tests will be made in the aerodrome at Stag Lane, where the ground rises to a slight hill in one corner.

Another glider has been designed by Captain W.H. Seyers, who is at present in Germany, studying German methods of construction. If the de Havilland machine is successful, Captain T.E. Hearn may attempt to cross the Channel in a glider of the same type later in the year.

The progress that has been made in Germany and France with gliding has aroused considerable public interest in this country, and many aircraft firms have received inquiries from private individuals as to the cost of building gliders to their own designs. Several enthusiasts have gone further than this and have set about designing and building gliders themselves. Some of these are finding difficulty in obtaining materials, and particularly the right sort of wood. Meanwhile, the Aircraft Disposal Company has arranged to sell materials for glider-building at specially low terms to bona-fide amateurs. Such materials would include linen, wings, and fittings. Old aeroplane wings, having been constructed to lift a far greater load than that carried by the wings of a glider, would have to be entirely re-made, and much lightened in the process, before they would be suitable for use on motorless machines.

One of the firms that has arranged to build gliders to the specification of designers is the Central Aircraft Company, of Kilburn. Another firm is prepared to construct them at £100 apiece, provided the demand is reasonably high.

It is generally agreed that not a little of the remarkable success recently achieved by German aeronautical students at the glider meeting on the Wasserkuppe, near Fulda, was due to the skill displayed in choosing the locality for the meeting. The choice was made by Professor Gutermuth, of the Darmstadt Technical High School. The Wasserkuppe is a steep hill in the Rhön Mountains, and the configuration of the country thereabouts is such as to produce the strong upward gusts without which soaring flight without mechanical power cannot be carried out.



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MYTH ON THE ROCK

The Special Air Service has thrived on its reputation as a ruthless band of heroes. It has also been threatened by it — and rarely more so than in the run-up to the inquest on the IRA terrorists shot dead in Gibraltar in March.

The legends born from past operations have been a bonus by creating fear in enemy minds. When the Ministry of Defence ran a radio propaganda campaign from Ascension Island during the Falklands campaign, the main message for the occupying Argentinian soldiers was the "ferociousness" of the SAS.

In earlier years too, when Harold Wilson announced that he was sending the SAS to Northern Ireland in 1976, it was the same deliberate ploy. Although the SAS had, in fact, carried out assignments in Ulster since 1969, the IRA was so alarmed at the announcement that it ordered all operations to be abandoned for a month.

But behind the guise of the SAS myth it has also become easier to tell lies about it. As the Gibraltar inquest progresses, some of the extent of this is already clear.

The three terrorists who were shot dead by the SAS in March were not, for example, tracked by Spanish police right up to the border on the day they entered the Rock. It was not known that the IRA man, Savage, would be driving a white Renault. Nor was he running away when he was shot. According to the SAS tactical commander, Soldier E, Savage was appearing to do the opposite, "to be dangerous and lethally aggressive."

Before the inquest began many premature judgements had been made. In particular the Thames Television programme, *Death on the Rock*, which appeared at the end of April, attempted to produce all the answers before crucial facts were known. Many of the assumptions made in the programme have since proved to be inaccurate. But the myths — as is their wont — live on.

The evidence at the inquest does, in fact, do

much to clear away the mythology surrounding the SAS. First of all, it is clear that the SAS, very special though they are, are bound by as much bureaucracy as any other unit called in by the civilian authorities.

Formal documents had to be signed on several occasions as Operation Flavius progressed. It had to be ensured that the hand-over from civil to military was conducted according to the proper procedures.

Any action taken by the SAS soldiers had to be based strictly on the rules of engagement that were drawn up and approved by ministers. It appears that the rules were no different from the guidelines laid down in the yellow card carried by all soldiers in Northern Ireland. There was just one exception: the SAS men were told that under no circumstances should they enter Spanish territory.

The aim of the operation was to arrest the terrorists. The myth is that confrontation with the SAS always leads to death. Perhaps the most fascinating statistic produced so far at the inquest was the statement from Soldier F that the ratio between the number of arrests and killings in operations carried out by the SAS was 75 per cent to 25 per cent in favour of arrests.

No one hears of arrests by the SAS in Northern Ireland, because these incidents are never publicized. It is only the firefights between the SAS and IRA that make the headlines.

On the narrow question of the Gibraltar killings, the Government was right to allow the SAS men to appear at the inquest. For they are the only ones who can properly give their side of the story.

On the broader question of the future SAS role, it may also turn out to have been a good decision. The Army's most highly-trained soldiers must not only engender fear in their enemies but confidence among their friends.

TIDES OF CRIME

The autumn crime figures, recording a drop in some of the most socially sensitive types of crime such as burglary, will allow the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, to face the annual ordeal of his address to the Conservative Party Conference with somewhat more equanimity than usual. This is never an easy brief. Accounts of recent changes in the law are rarely a match for emotional demands that "something more must be done".

This time he will be able to reply that something has been done, and the figures show the results. He can add that those areas of crime still apparently failing to respond to treatment, including the worrying categories of violent "street crime", have yet to be exposed to already agreed measures such as greater control on the possession of offensive weapons.

So while the Home Office in its reaction yesterday was wise to be cautious — previous occasional improvements in annual crime statistics have not proved to herald lasting trends — there are grounds for encouragement. Most of all, the message seems to be starting to get home that crime is not just a police responsibility but involves the whole community. This year's statistics are a positive endorsement of the emphasis which has been given to crime prevention by the ordinary citizen, and to the "neighbourhood watch" system, nearly 60,000 examples of which are now in operation.

But the reported numbers of crimes of violence and crimes involving sex are still up. The total recorded level of crime still has to fall a long way until it reaches the level of even a decade ago. Containment of those overall levels is a modest achievement, but not until crime statistics fall regularly year after year can it be called success. Indeed it is the apparent intractability of the advance of crime that makes any levelling off seem remarkable: it is not satisfactory in itself, and the bare statistics still conceal thousands upon thousands of

anguished victims. It is even too soon to say that the Government has succeeded in arresting the trend.

The Home Secretary is on strong ground in suggesting, as he has done recently more than once, that changes in the moral climate will be necessary before we can regard law and order as secure again. In particular the tendency has to be resisted that regards certain types of crime as a permissible, if only occasional, option.

Too many crimes, particularly those associated with late night street disturbances, are not taken seriously enough. The "Saturday night lager cult", as described by the Home Office Minister of State, Mr John Patten, yesterday, is unacceptable as an excuse for rowdiness and hooliganism. A few more severely salutary sentences might help to bring home the lesson that crime is always serious.

There is scope for applying the neighbourhood watch technique to street crime too. It may require a different approach, for burglary and violent hooliganism occur in different places at different times. The principle is the same, however. In the neighbourhood watch systems the police have succeeded in gaining the co-operation of the law-abiding public by convincing it that such co-operation is not for the benefit of the police but the neighbourhood.

The more the public can see the police in that way, the more alert they will be for early signs of disturbance on the streets, and the more they will give the police that advance warning which is often the difference between trouble prevented and trouble stamped out with difficulty. Similarly with individual street crimes of violence, the attitude has to be cultivated that any person abroad with criminal intent is passing through unfriendly territory liable to turn hostile at the first suspicion of unlawfulness. Maybe then the streets will become more dangerous places for criminals, less dangerous for the public.

A TIME FOR PEACE

Prospects of peace in Sri Lanka blossom and fade with almost seasonal regularity. A government initiative generates euphoria. There is exaggerated talk of a solution. In time, as voices of dissent grow louder, reality breaks through the illusion, the violence resumes, and the ruins of failed or unfulfilled solutions lie scattered across the landscape.

The Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord of July 1987, at the time given a good chance of success, had by this year become another casualty of the island's consuming communalism. Initially the enthusiastic commitment by the Indians, who sent in their Army to defeat the Tamil Tiger guerrillas, created momentum and hope.

Then the bloom faded. The taming of the Tigers became a seemingly ceaseless military campaign. In the north the support of the Tamil people disappeared. At the same time, the opposition of the southern Sinhalese opponents grew louder and more violent.

It is this dying plant which has been revived by President Jayawardene's latest announcement to push through the promised merger of the island's northern and eastern provinces and to hold early elections for a provincial council which will thereafter assume power. The decision seeks to fulfil the principle of self-determination of the Indo-Sri Lankan political elements of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord by giving a measure of self-rule to the Tamils. In so doing it gives primacy to the political dimensions of that treaty over its military commitments.

Both the Indian and Sri Lankan governments can claim credit. After over a year, the 50,000-strong Indian Peace Keeping Force believes it has sufficiently weakened the Tigers to permit the political process to resume. Their opposition was one of the principle obstacles to the accord's implementation.

For its part, the Jayawardene Government's steady devolution of provincial power to newly created councils elsewhere in the country,

despite Sinhalese opposition to the process, maintained the spirit of the accord and kept alive the hope that one day the same would happen in the north and east. That time has now come.

But if there is to be a fully-fledged peace, both governments have to maintain their perseverance. Elections to the newly-merged northern and eastern council will still not be easy without the Tigers' participation. Even though their earlier demand to dominate the council will now be easily resisted, they will want some recognition of their role in what they call the Tamil struggle. Without them moderates like the Tamil United Liberation Front may not contest the polls either.

It is not easy to say how the Tigers' role could be neutralized. If the Sri Lankan Government were to proclaim the provincial merger permanent it may appeal to them more. On current plans, a referendum within a year of the merger could unravel the new united province. The likelihood of that is the cause of the Tigers' opposition.

The other serious obstacle is Sinhala hostilities. Even though President Jayawardene's United National Party has convincingly beaten the opposition Freedom Party in recent by-elections, and the once proscribed People's Liberation Front is no longer banned, Sinhala opposition to the merger remains a matter of high emotions.

Handling it will not be easy. The guarantees that might appease the Tamils are the very opposite of what will be acceptable to the Sinhalese. The only hope lies in the Indian and Sri Lankan governments continuing to work together. The former still has some leverage with the Tamils; if that is properly exercised, the latter may find it easier to stand up to Sinhala opposition. The alternative is that the present promise of peace will wither and history will simply record another failed attempt.

TUC's favoured status challenged

From the Executive Director of the Federation of Managerial Professional and General Associations
Sir, Some of us have long argued that the TUC should not have the exclusive right to represent all workers in our society, on public statutory bodies, especially those who have indicated that they do not wish to be so represented.

The TUC have around nine million members and unions outside the TUC have about two million organised into the MPG, a federation representing managers, professionals and general unions.

The MPG has places on bodies such as health authorities, industrial tribunals and the right to nominate to others, and in 1986 it obtained a seat on the European Economic and Social Committee. We have constantly pressed for seats on bodies such as Acas, the health and safety and training commissions, the National Economic Development Council and many others.

A radical step would be for the Government to organise a ballot amongst all workers, union members, non-union members, even the self-employed, in which they would be asked which of the recognised bodies they favoured to represent them by nominating for places on public statutory bodies.

Based on this ballot, which could be held, say, every seven years (the period is arbitrary) the percentage voting would indicate the level of support and the percentage of places to be allocated to each organisation.

Democracy for all workers would be achieved and representation via the vote would be acknowledged. Ministers would still have the final say of who was to be appointed.

Those of us in MPG who have pressed for change hope that the Government will take the opportunity to consider all the options.

Yours sincerely,
WILFRED ASPINALL,
Executive Director, Federation of Managerial Professional and General Associations,
Tavistock House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
September 12.

Labour attitudes

From Mr Simon D. Downer
Sir, I read with interest your report (September 9) entitled "Crumbusting is Thatcher legacy".

It seems to me that it is precisely because of the Labour Party's continuing conviction that the people of this country adjust their values in response of reaction to those of the Government, rather than vice versa, and that we each have only limited control over our own and our children's actions, that they are not in power.

Yours etc,
SIMON DOWNER,
Downer & Co.,
44 Cheapside Street,
Newbury, Berkshire.

Reply to the 364

From Professor Sir Douglas Hague
Sir, Like other readers, I am grateful to Frank Hahn and Martin Weale for their elucidation (article, September 12) of the statement from 364 economists in 1981.

Contrary to what they say, I read the statement extremely carefully before making my speech to the British Association in which I made a single point. This referred to the economists' claim that there could be no rise in output unless existing policies were changed.

Within six months of the statement being issued GDP — the broadest measure of output — was rising and has continued to rise, even though Government policy had not changed. In that sense I claimed, and still claim, that the 364 were wrong.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HAGUE, Chairman,
Metapris Ltd,
Hanover House, Coombe Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Homage to Haydn

From Mr Christopher Slater
Sir, It is good to read Bernard Levin waxing lyrical over the Haydn festival at Wigmore Hall (September 12), so perhaps it would help him to forget the "unfortunate connotations" of "Op. 76 Variation Theme" if he remembered that it is set in the Ancient and Modern Hymnbook to the words "Glorious things of thee are spoken".

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SLATER,
The Cottage, 12 Crabtree Lane,
Great Bookham, Surrey.

From Mr Anthony D'Angour
Sir, In his earnest desire to praise the musical sensitivity as well as the generosity of Andreas Schiff, Bernard Levin has unfortunately shown himself, in the last paragraph of his article to be neither sensitive nor generous. Levin crowns his eulogy with a ludicrous

Fax numbers

From Mr Donald Barrington
Sir, I should be grateful to take this opportunity to suggest that owners of fax machines should co-operate to lobby for the outlawing of the use of fax for unsolicited advertisements. This form of intrusion steals paper and electricity while hindering outgoing communication.

Until the postal backlog is cleared letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number,
(01) 782 5864.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the NHS needs its regions

From the Chairman of the South West Thames Regional Health Authority

Sir, A case is now being made for the abolition of regional health authorities as part of the National Health Service review. They are seen as simply administrative bodies with apparently little to offer for people requiring medical attention and have made few efforts to explain their function and usefulness.

Comparatively small organisations like the Army, banks, electricity, and chain stores devolve to regions. The concept that centralising administration is efficient has surely been tested often enough and found wanting.

Administration has had a rotten image in the NHS, with people dying, people waiting, hospitals needed; it is easy to forget that regions organise the finances of districts; co-ordinate bulk buying of food, medicine, stores; buy and sell land; cherish special units for rare diseases covering several districts; provide legal services for a now more litigious population; plan new hospitals and so on; yet at the same time, by having lay and professional authority members, support services have the benefit of "boards of directors" who have added innovation and flair to mundane tasks.

The most determined defenders of regions are consultants because it is the regions which hold the contracts of employment. Working as they often do in more than one district, the consultants have argued strongly for their contracts to be held at regional level so those advocating abolition will have to modify this extremely influential body.

Like the House of Commons committees, regions have not grabbed the headlines; they grind away at details of administrative work in a service which, second to none, has low administration costs.

It is, of course, fascinating that

those most in favour of abolishing regions, like the Royal College of Nursing and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Social Services, are not productive organisations. Is this the start of a new phase in our public life of quango eating quango?

Yours faithfully,
JULIA CUMBERLEGE,
Chairman,
South West Thames Regional Health Authority,
40 Eastbourne Terrace, W2,
September 7.

From Mr David Woodrow

Sir, No one will disagree with Mr Nigel Harris's view (September 13) that the quality as well as the quantity of patient care must be brought into account in any measurement of NHS efficiency. But his view of the way management in the NHS functions seems, understandably perhaps, to be one-sided.

Management seems to him to be concerned first and last with the need to live within arbitrarily allocated funds. That is how it must seem to him from the standpoint of a caring hospital clinician. But he should change places with his regional health authority chairman for a spell. He would then seem to hear little else from management than of the gap between allocated resources and the needs of patients in his region, as assessed by (inter alios) clinicians like himself.

He would also find himself seeming to spend most of his time and energy in representing those needs to Government ministers in pursuit of increased funding. And so it goes on. Management neither starts nor ends by deciding what can be afforded.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WOODROW
(one-time Chairman of the Oxford Regional Health Authority),
Dobsons, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire,
September 13.

Care in hospitals

From Mr F. A. Baker
Sir, With reference to Mr M. J. Ball's letter (September 12) may I add a few comments from a patient's point of view.

I have recently returned home from a week's stay in a surgical ward at a large and expanding NHS hospital at Taunton; this was an emergency admission following two highly successful operations there for bowel cancer a few years ago.

On this occasion, as before, the surgical care was, to the layman's eye, exemplary and the attitude of the surgical and medical staff was wonderfully compassionate and understanding. But the whole superb and expensive package of treatment, caring and nursing was completely spoilt by lack of control in the ward of visitors and patients. I can only assume that this is the result of an "open ward" policy imposed by the pillars of the establishment.

Visitors came and went at will, some through the main ward door, some through what seemed to be an "emergency exit" door. Some arrived as early as 8.15 in the

morning; others stayed until nine and even 10 at night.

Their numbers were not limited in any way. Five visitors at a bed for long periods was not uncommon and at one bed there were often six adults conducting loud conversations while two small children ran round the ward and a third screamed intermittently.

Portable TV sets with sound were allowed. Three private sets were operating in the ward and one "official" set in the "day room". The first TV set usually started up about 7.45 am. From time to time during the day they were working and two were rarely switched off until after 11.15 pm when I was able to take blessed relief in a sleeping pill.

A friend visiting me said: "This place is more like a holiday camp than a hospital ward". Is there any possibility that the health service might divide these large wards with a glass partition so that one part is quiet and the other part "do-as-you-like"?

Yours faithfully,
F. A. BAKER,
Upover, Fair Cross,
Washford,
Watchet, Somerset.

Glyndebourne grouse

From Mr G. A. Browning
Sir, Ann Stein (September 9) perhaps feels more guilty than she need. She is comparing the cheapest slip seats at Covent Garden (from which the stage is invisible) with the best seats and a lavish dinner at Glyndebourne.

One can still enjoy an utterly delightful and memorable afternoon and evening at Glyndebourne for only £25: the price of a gallery seat from which one can hear and see perfectly. The picnic comes free, so to speak. That is within the means of most opera lovers and worth every penny!

Yours faithfully,
G. A. BROWNING,
12 The Priors,
East Heath Road,
Hampstead, NW3.

and unfounded insinuation, at the expense of Radu Lupu that Radu Lupu, of all people, could be the owner of a "large gleaming Rolls-Royce".

Anyone who knows Radu Lupu on a personal and musical level can only be completely aware of this great artist's utter sincerity and lack of ostentation in his life and music-making.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D'ANGOUR,
38 Bath Road, Bedford Park, W4.

From Mr Leonard Pearcey
Sir, Bernard Levin is right to praise William Lyne's management of the Wigmore Hall. However, Mr Lyne has been manager there not for two or three years but for 21. Quite clearly time flies when Mr Lyne is enjoying himself.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD PEARCEY,
53 Queens Road, SW19.

Dashing Italians

From Mr John Craven
Sir, The chaos which will follow Italy's decision to introduce a different set of speed limits at weekends will surely be nothing new to that country. In my 1923 *Michelin Guide to Great Britain*, page 881, under the caption, "Information on Various Foreign Countries" there is a table:

The Rule of the Road for European Motorists

1. Keep to the right, overtake on the left:
Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Holland, Norway, Germany, Spain, Austria (Tyrol), Yugoslavia, Italy (on all country roads and in some towns), Switzerland, Poland, Morocco and Roumania.

2. Keep to the left, overtake on the right:
Austria (with the exception of Tyrol), Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Portugal, Sweden, Hungary, Luxembourg, Italy (in most of the large towns). This regulation is indicated by sign-posts: Tenere la Sinistra.

Europe must have been a very exciting place for those drivers daring enough to venture far afield but then, as now, the Italians had the final word when it came to confusion.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CRAVEN,
19 Marden Avenue,
Donnington,
Chichester, West Sussex.

Lindisfarne parapet

From Mr Donald MacDonald
Sir, There is an illustrious precedent to the Health and Safety Executive's pressure for a wall to be built along the outer edge of the approach ramp to Lindisfarne Castle (letters, September 6, 10; report, September 8).

In 1908 the Prince of Wales (later King George V) visited the castle and on July 3, 1908, Sir Edwin Lutyens, in a letter to his wife, described the Prince's reaction to the approach:
He was terribly alarmed at the gateway up and wanted a wall built. I told him we had pulled one down and that if he really thought it unsafe we would put new one. He thought that very funny.

Is this the solution to Sir Edwin's grandson's dilemma?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD MACDONALD,
8 Barrowden Road,
Ketton,
Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Large dams' part in flood control

From Mr E. T. Haws

Sir, Your excellent editorial of September 6 has been seized upon by Mr Hildyard (September 9) to continue his campaign against large dams. A major storage dam used for flood control should be operated according to a predetermined and agreed rule curve. Thus, if there is a predictable flood season the reservoir is drawn down in expectation so that space is available to store some of the water of the incoming flood. The early draw-down is in times of natural low river flow, so such flows are increased, not decreased, during the dry season, as erroneously suggested by Mr Hildyard.

Such a rule curve also reduces the total volume of water passed over the spillway of the dam. Any spillage does not pass through the hydroelectric power station and produces no electrical energy whatsoever. The operator of the hydroelectric station views such loss of energy as much more serious than keeping his reservoir as full as possible, contrary to the assumption of Mr Hildyard.

Dams do sometimes need to spill, nevertheless, but in a well-managed system gates will be opened gradually. The greatest release should be at rates generally below natural flow.

It is interesting to note the increased awareness of environmental matters with all those responsible for dam projects, the owners, the lending agencies, the engineers and operators. The World Bank has recently made some loans conditional on environmental plans and has increased its own environmental grubbies substantially. In Brazil the utilities employ some 200 environmental experts and this is following the example of an excellent record of promoters in most of the developed countries.

With uncontrolled population growth country dwellers will seek preservation by cutting timber for fuel and practising slash and burn agriculture for food.

The teeming masses in the cities will have to rely on food and energy provided remotely. With their remorselessly growing numbers, these are the people who are going to be entirely dependent on new large-scale production of energy and food and these can only come from major projects, including hydroelectricity and irrigation from large dams. Those promoting hydroelectric schemes often also carry out catchment management procedures including planting in areas which have been previously cut.

The plea for small hydro schemes as quoted is quite out of scale in the context of uncontrolled population growth in the entire subcontinent, as are village pumps for safe water supply to the masses of city dwellers.

The problem must be tackled at the source with vigorous programmes of population control and education. In the meantime dams can help provide the needs of the new population and also help mitigate flooding, just as proposed in your editorial. The Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 dealt satisfactorily with some multinational aspects of water resources and similar joint efforts must be made for the whole area of Himalayan southward run-off. Yours faithfully,
E. T. HAWS (Chairman, Environment Committee, International Commission on Large Dams),
61 Southwark Street, SE1,
September 12.

Threat of schism

From the Reverend Nicholas Henderson
Sir, I note that the organizers of the Movement for a Continuing Church of England, a body which is considering schism should the Church of England ordain women as priests (report, September 6), are starting to raise money for their cause. As a supporter of the ordination of women to the priesthood, I am seriously considering sending them a donation.

It seems to me that to set up such a body and to raise money for it is tantamount to leaving the Church already. The due processes of debate and synodical decision are yet to be completed; surely the formulation of plans to anticipate the result and threaten schism are unethical? It would be better for such a group to honestly and openly leave the Church now and thereby preserve its integrity.

If that becomes the case then my financial contribution will certainly be made.
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HENDERSON,
St Martin's Vicarage,
25 Birch Grove,
Acton, W3,
September 9.

Naming of parts

From Mr Bruce Dehn
Sir, Mr Ticehurst's letter in your columns today (September 14) reminded me that many years ago my parents used to play bridge fairly regularly with a Mr and Mrs Fogt. On one occasion when their arrival at our house was awaited my father, looking out of the window, said, "Ah, good, here come the Feet".
Yours faithfully,
BRUCE DEHN,
35 Corkran Road,
Surrey,
September 14.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 14: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Birmingham Railway Museum to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Opening of the London and Birmingham Railway.

Subsequently, His Royal Highness visited the South Aston Community Project, Aston, Birmingham.

His Royal Highness, attended by Major Christopher Lavender, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

This evening The Prince of Wales, Patron of Oz 88, attended a Royal Gala Performance at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. *Dreams in an Empty City*, by Stephen Sewell, was presented to launch a season of new award winning Australian playwrights to mark the Australian Bicentennial.

Major Christopher Lavender was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, The Wishing Well Appeal, attended the Appeal's Candle Lighting Ceremony at Poole General Hospital, Dorset.

Subsequently, Her Royal Highness visited the Poole Arts Centre. Her Royal Highness, attended

by Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Topham, RN, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 14: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, this afternoon visited The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Volunteers to mark the occasion of their Golden Jubilee.

Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Inner London Probation Service, was present this afternoon at the Annual Conference of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation at Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

His Royal Highness, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Si-Blanc, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 14: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were entertained at Dinner this evening by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic and Madame Domokos at 1 Lowndes Square, London SW1.

Prince Henry of Wales is four today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.W.P. Apps and Miss S.M. Lane
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Donald Apps, of Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire, and Sheila, daughter of Mrs Anne Lane and the late Mr Arthur Lane, of Sundridge, Kent.

Mr B.L. Bunting and Miss C.M. Sabin
The engagement is announced between Bernard, son of Mr J. Bunting and Mrs Romola Jane, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Sabin.

Captain W.B.G. Carmichael and Miss E.A. Elliott
The engagement is announced between William Carmichael, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.G.O. Carmichael, of Boxted, Colchester, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.M. Elliott, of Ayleston, Leicester.

Mr J.W.J. Cole and Miss Y.E. Hawkins
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Major and Mrs John Cole, of West Woodhay, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hawkins, of Hitchin.

Mr J.J. Harley and Miss N.M. Collins
The marriage will take place on Saturday, September 17, at St George's Church, Woolpoole, Herefordshire, between Jay, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Harley, of Hamilton Terrace, NW8, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Warren Collins, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr V.A.R. Illingworth and Miss S.J. Fraser
The engagement is announced between Vaughan, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Illingworth, of Isleworth, Middlesex, and Susannah, youngest daughter of the Rev J.S. and Mrs Fraser, of Putney, London.

Mr N.J. Leeming and Miss E.K. Woodward-Fisher
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, youngest son of the late Mr Richard Leeming, of Skirgill Park, Penrith, and Emma Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Woodward-Fisher, of Albert Place, Kensington.

Mr R.J.N. Linzee Gordon and Miss J.B. Dacre Hardy
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.A.C. Linzee Gordon, of Cluny, Aberdeenshire, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Dacre Hardy, of Lydbury North, Shropshire.

Mr D.J. Park and Miss L. Sepulchre
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Park, of London, SW3, and Isabelle, daughter of M and M M.D. Sepulchre, of Bierges, Belgium.

Mr M.N.C. Muncester and Miss S.M. Dufort
The engagement is announced between Maximilian, eldest son of Doctor Clive Muncester, of Oxford, and Susannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Dufort, of Langley, Cheshire.

Mr J.D. Revely and Miss N.P.J. Burrell
The engagement is announced between Donald, younger son of Mr and Mrs W. Desmond Revely, of Mill Corner, West Chillingham, Sussex, and Nicola, daughter of the late Mr P.T. Burrell, Royal Navy (retired), and of Mrs Patricia Burrell, of The Down House, Tacolneston, Norfolk.

Mr M. Street and Miss J.S. Webber
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs P.R. Street, of Bakewell, Derbyshire, and Jocelyn Sarah, only daughter of the late Mr R.W. Webber and of Mrs S. Webber, of Kilmorich, South Yorkshire.

Mr K.M. Stradley and Miss J. Begbey
The engagement is announced between Keith, youngest son of Mr and Mrs L.V. Stradley, of Reading, Berkshire, and Josephine, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs D.C. Begbey, of Seaford, East Sussex.

Mr J.J.N. Sykes and Miss N.J. Moffatt
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr and Mrs Allen Sykes, of Fetcham, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr James William Moffatt, of Ashford, Kent, and Mrs Chimmie Branson, of Levensham, North Yorkshire.

Mr G.P. Windsor Clive and Miss A.G. Leaf
The engagement is announced between George, son of Brigadier and Mrs Robert Windsor Clive, of Ashford Carboneil, Ludlow, Shropshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony Leaf, of Ampney St Peter, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Marriages
Mr G.L. Henderson and Miss D.M. Pugh
The marriage took place on September 10, between Mr Gavin Ian Laidlaw Henderson, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Henderson, of Balmuir, and Miss Diana Margaret Pugh, second daughter of the late Mr John David Pugh and of Mrs Marjorie Pugh, of Hythe, Kent.

Mr M.J.D.A. Sephton and Miss V.J. Dowd
The marriage took place on September 10, at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, of Mr Marcus Sephton, only son of Mr and Mrs David Sephton, of Thripplow, Cambridge, and Miss Virginia Dowd, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Dowd, of Penllyn, Cowbridge.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Suzanne Bartley, Miss Alisha Haider and Richard and James Chalk. Mr Maxwell Hudson was best man.

The reception was held at the home of the bride's parents and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

Mr H. Stewart Black and Mrs C. Pannett
The marriage took place quietly in London on Monday, September 12, 1988, of Mr Hamish Stewart Black, to Mr Carol Pannett. Their address will be 58 Scarsdale Villas, London W8.

Architecture

Prince's boost for homes

By Charles Kieffert, Architecture Correspondent

The first in an ambitious series of self-build housing developments for people on low incomes living in inner city areas is to be launched in Tower Hamlets, east London, today by the Prince of Wales.

Halifax Building Society is making available £50 million initially which will fund the building of about 1,600 homes by local people in Inner London, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, and other parts of Britain. Many of those involved will be receiving unemployment, supplementary or housing benefit.

The scheme, called Rosehaugh Self-Build Housing Initiative, has been devised by Mr Godfrey Bradman, the developer who is behind some of the biggest commercial property developments in the capital.

Mr Bradman and a team of advisers have spent the past 18 months negotiating with seven government departments, after the

Prince invited him to "strain his mind" to the problem of providing affordable housing for those in greatest need.

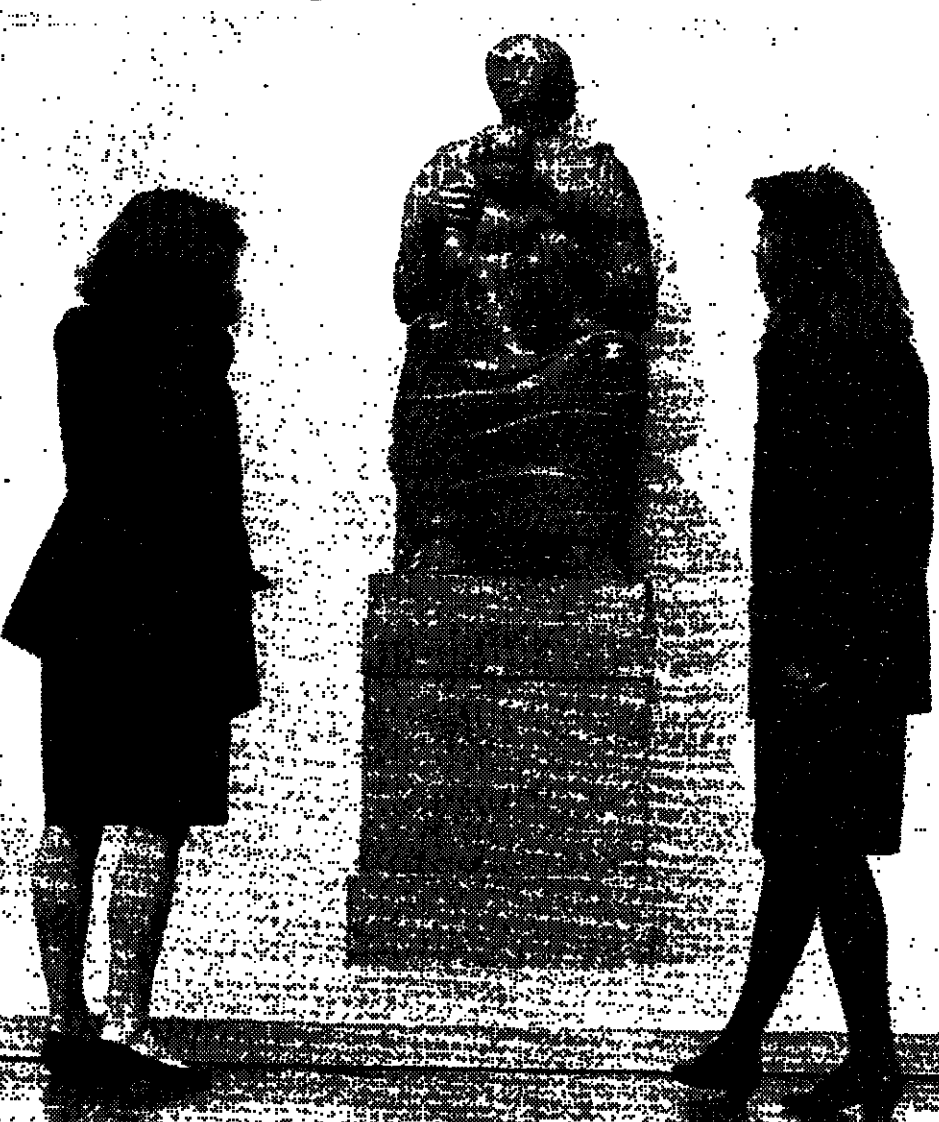
The Tower Hamlets scheme will have four three-bedroomed and 12 two-bedroomed houses on the 0.7 acre site, which is owned by Tower Hamlets council. The 16 self-builders expect to save up to half the cost of building a house by doing much of the work themselves. A three-bedroomed house will cost about £27,250.

Two other self-build schemes will start by next spring in Islington, north London, and Milton Keynes.

Last year self-builders were responsible for 10,750 new homes.

What makes the Rosehaugh method different is that land is made available free initially, usually by the local authority. In most cases land can be half the total cost of a new home.

Academy tribute to Moore



Over 120 sculptures, including this Madonna and Child from St Matthew's Church, Northampton, form the major part of a retrospective Henry Moore exhibition which opens tomorrow at the Royal Academy. Also included are life drawings, which were among his earliest works, and naturalistic drawings from the end of his life. Moore died in 1986. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

School announcements

Clarendon School
Clarendon School at Haynes Park, Bedford, opens for the Autumn term today with 255 pupils on roll, including 58 in the Sixth Form. 45 new girls are joining the school. Asha Butt is Head Girl. Clarendon is ninety this year and is including in its celebrations a musical concert in which past pupils and staff will be taking part. Any Old Clarendonian who would like to participate in or attend this event on Friday, October 21, at 7.30 pm, should contact the school.

Miss Sheila Houghton, Headmistress from 1965-1978, will be the speaker at Prize-Giving which is to be held at 10.30am the following morning. Old Clarendonians would be welcome at this event also. The school will be open to visitors on Wednesday, November 16, and parents who would like to consider Clarendon as a school for their daughter are invited to send for details.

Hull Grammar School
The first term of the new independent Hull Grammar School began on September 12, 1988, at its site in Cottingham Road, Kingston upon Hull. The new school has been founded by the Bishop Alocch Trust Limited, a company set up by the Hull Old Grammarians' Association specifically "to uphold and maintain the aims and traditions of the former Hull Grammar School", following the closure of the latter by Humberside County Council last term. The Headmaster is Mr R. Trevor Tolson, MA, and the new school has over 300 pupils in its preparatory and senior departments. The Hull Old Grammarians' Association annual dinner will take place at the school on Friday, October 14, 1988.

Oundle School
The Oundle School 1986-88 appeal for £1,000,000 was officially concluded on August 21, 1988, at a total in excess of £1,300,000. The three appeal projects, the Sports Hall, the New Cripps Library and the Physics Building are now in use. The Physics Building will be opened on Saturday, September 24, by Dr Joseph Needham (O.C.O. FRC, FBA, Hon FRCP). The Governing Body, the Court of the Grocers' Company, wishes to express its gratitude to all those who donated so generously to the appeal.

Big Bang Ball
The Lord Mayor of London will be present at the annual Big Bang Ball at the Cafe Royal, W1, on Friday, October 7, 1988. There will be eight floors of fun, dancing and entertainment. 225 tickets can be obtained from Adam Bros, 15 St Helens Place, Bishopsgate, EC3, or Mr Oliver Baxter, 69 Eccleston Square, Victoria, SW1, or telephone 01 931 8849.

Derelict sites 'are bursting with life'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Precious wildlife refuges, which could be a source of pleasure for future generations, are being needlessly destroyed by Government insistence on the reclamation of derelict land, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation says.

Nightingales sing in old clay workings in Devon, a rare orchid flourishes in an Essex quarry, and waste tips on Merseyside are bright with an assortment of unusual wildlife.

But despite their plentiful wildlife, old industrial sites, such as worked-out gravel pits, spoil heaps and old sewage works, as well as natural wastelands such as estuaries and marshes, are officially classed as derelict.

An article in the society's magazine, *Natural World*, observes that the official definition of derelict land conjures up images of brick rubble, dilapidated buildings and bare, bleak expanses poisoned with chemical toxins, riddled with shafts and strewn with dangerous structures.

Derelict land may well be hazardous and unsightly, and can blight an area, discouraging investment and contributing to the downward spiral of decline.

Churchyard 'mower cult' is criticized

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

Church graveyards are important in the preservation of wildlife and should not be over-tidied in the interests of neatness, a new report from the Church of England says today.

It warns against the "cult of the omnivorous mower" which reduces everything to one inch high. A compromise was necessary between complete neglect and obsessive tidiness. Most churchyards had areas which could be left to grow wild, while grass paths between graves were tended.

The report, by the Council for the Care of Churches, updates advice given in 1976 to parish clergy and parochial church councils.

It draws attention to the potential interest in graves, which can be an important source for local historians. Good practice would include making available a written

guide to a churchyard, mentioning the most interesting graves and monuments. The report also urges church authorities not to discourage imaginative gravestoners, suggesting that the clergy should point out to parishioners considering the design of a gravestone that they could commission a local craftsman who was a stonemason, letter-cutter or sculptor, rather than taking one of the "off-the-peg" designs offered by undertakers.

A churchyard was often the only surviving remnant of ancient herb-rich grassland, and it would be helpful, the report says, to erect a notice stating that an area was kept wild in the interests of conservation.

The Churchyard Handbook: Church House Publishing; Great Smith Street, London SW1; £7.95.

OBITUARY

SIR DONALD ALBERY

Theatre impresario of catholic tastes

Sir Donald Albery, who died yesterday, at the age of 74, was, as chairman and managing director of The Wyndham Theatres Ltd, until 1978, one of the principal theatre managers in London in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. An impresario who combined a shrewd eye for commercial success with a willingness to take a risk.

Albery came from a family which had four generations in the theatre in its blood. His distinguished father, Sir Bronson Albery, himself the son of the actress and theatre manageress, Mary Moore, was one of the most influential figures in the London theatre of his own day.

If Sir Donald lacked his father's passion for the classics of the theatre, he nevertheless had catholic taste, and several times changed his arm on plays which seemed to be vehicles of misfortune at the time, but turned out to be recognized as masterpieces.

Such a play was Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, which had not prospered when it had its first London airing at the Arts Theatre in 1955. Albery saw its potential, and when he did it at the Criterion in the same year, it was seen in a different light. The critics hailed it; Beckett's name was made in this country.

Donald Arthur Rolleston Albery was born in London on June 19, 1914, and was educated at the Alpine College, in Switzerland.

His first foray into theatre management was actually with the ballet, and he was



general manager of Sadler's Wells Ballet from 1941 to 1945.

He began presenting plays in 1953, his first being *The Living Room*. It was to be the precursor of a string of successes.

On the whole, it was not in Albery's nature to present anything minor. When he saw something that was performing as if it was minor, it was his knack to be able to make it major. Apart from *Waiting for Godot*, *A Taste of Honey* was another conspicuous instance. He took it from Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop, and on the stage of Wyndham's Theatre it immediately created a sensation.

Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was another (now) standard modern work, given its first West End run by him.

BRIGADIER PETER YOUNG

Brigadier Peter Young, DSO, MC and two Bars, fighting soldier and military historian, died on September 13, at the age of 73.

Although Young's reputation as a military historian rested very largely on his writings of the English Civil War, and in particular the cause of King Charles I, he was in character essentially Elizabethan, a robust and rumbustious soldier-scholar, as ready to sing the King of Spain's beard as to enter into disputation with learned men concerning some matter of academic controversy.

He could base his writings on much personal experience of battle, having been in on some of the most desperate exploits of the Second World War.

He was born on July 28, 1915, and went to Monmouth School and Trinity College, Oxford. In 1939 he was commissioned in the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment and was wounded during the evacuation from Dunkirk the following year.

As soon as he was fit again he volunteered for the newly-formed Commandos, with whom he had a distinguished war record, being awarded the DSO and MC in 1942, and receiving in 1943 two more bars to his MC.

He took part in the Commando raids on Lofoten and Vaags, Sicily and Italy, Normandy and the Aachen. When the war ended he was commanding the 1st Commando Brigade with the temporary rank of Brigadier and aged only 30.

It was only to be expected that an officer with such an outstanding war record, to

which could be added a first-class intellect and great organizing ability, would go far in the Army; but if the truth be told Young found it difficult to decide whether to remain in the military profession or return to his first love, history.

The latter won in the end, but before he retired in 1959 in the rank of Brigadier, Young had enjoyed three successful and enjoyable years, from 1953-56, in command of 9th Infantry Regiment in the Arab Legion.

His personality and character particularly appealed to the Bedouin soldier, and Young established an exceptional rapport with his men, this despite the fact that his Arabic, although grammatically correct, was virtually unintelligible on account of his pronounced English accent.

He was for some time garrison commander in the Old City of Jerusalem, a post which had special appeal for such a dedicated historian, and he later wrote interestingly about this, and his other Jordanian experiences, in his book, *Bedouin Command*.

He was increasingly in demand as a writer and broadcaster on Anglo-Arab relations, as well as becoming involved in business affairs in the Middle East.

On leaving the Army he was appointed Reader in Military History at Sandhurst in 1959, remaining there for ten years. During this period he was a prolific writer of books and articles on military history, his main interest being the Civil War on which he became a recognized authority.

It was in pursuance of this interest that he played a prominent part in forming and organising the "Sealed Knot Society of Cavaliers,"

MR ANDREW CROCKER

Mr Andrew Crocker, classicist, anthropologist, cider apple farmer, barrister and friend of many of the world's aboriginal peoples, died on September 1, at the age of 43, as the result of a bomb blast in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, where he was on a visit to make contact with the Bushmen.

Born on August 25, 1945, he had a passionate concern for the world's threatened tribal minorities, and he worked with and for the Australian Aborigines in their struggle for land and human rights.

He was involved with Survival International during the 1980s, both as a consultant and active member of its projects committee.

Educated at Downside, he

went to Jesus College, Cambridge, as a classics exhibitioner at 16. He then went into chartered accountancy, also paying his first visit to Australia in the 1970s.

He was subsequently called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, but he was soon drawn back to Australia and the Aboriginal cause.

While pursuing the issue of Aboriginal land rights, Crocker recognized that after 200 years of foreign influence it was impossible for the Aborigines to revert to the traditional lifestyle. Their survival as a race was dependent on the development of their own industry and he was instrumental in directing them.

His particular love was

Aboriginal art of which he had a profound understanding, and was regarded as a leading authority.

Among his publishing undertakings were the book and Australian travelling exhibition of the work of the Aboriginal painter Charlie Tjarru Tjung Urrayi.

In 1980 he was appointed art adviser to the Aboriginal-owned company, Papunya Tula, and helped consolidate its success in taking contemporary Aboriginal art out of the tourist shops and into the galleries.

A gentle man of simple tastes, Crocker experienced deep contentment from tending his orchard in Somerset and corresponding with his many friends.

Latest wills

Mr George Desmond Ide, of Walserton, West Sussex, solicitor, left estate valued at £1,002,689 net. After numerous bequests, he left half the residue to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and a fourth, each to the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland.

Mrs Elsie Read, of Highworth, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,328,842. After small personal bequests she left the residue equally between 21 charities.

Mr Albert Edward Whetnam, of Colehill, Wiltshire, Dorset, formerly of Preston, Weymouth, company director, left estate valued at £1,210,203 net.

Mr Stuart Francis Wyton, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, Head of the BBC's network production centre in Bristol 1970-77, left estate valued at £151,240 net.

Mrs Barbara Ellen Porter, of Hayes, Bromley, Kent, left estate valued at £172,722 net. She left personal legacies totalling £9,000 and the residue to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

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THE ARTS



Reveling in roguery: Phil Collins (centre) dives into the ill-gotten gains with Larry Lamb (left) and Ralph Brown in *Buster*

David Robinson on an unconvincing and unappealing amorality play

False pretences

CINEMA

Buster (15)
Odeon Leicester Square

Frantic (15)
Warner Leicester Square,
Cannon Tottenham Court
Road

According to the jacket of the book-of-the-film of *Buster*, it is "a delightful variation on the rags-to-riches theme; the hilarious, tender and true story of a couple in love on the run and their bittersweet reaction to the forbidden fruits of paradise". Which is, after all, only one way of looking at Ronald "Buster" Edwards, the Great Train Robber.

Beside the peculations of bent merchant bankers and the violence of today's streets and stadiums, the exploits of the Great Train Robbers, a quarter of a century ago, may seem comparatively gentle; but robbery with violence is still a crime in which there are no degrees. Whatever happens, somebody gets hurt.

The makers of *Buster* resolutely evade this aspect of their story. Crime is all fun and adventure. At the start of the film we see Buster stealing a suit to go to a funeral; and breaking and entering Mothercare to provide for his child. Just to show there is no harm in it, the Great Train Robbery is planned in a children's playground, where the lovable villains suck lollies and play with the kiddies.

The robbery itself is all *Boys' Own* adventures, with a quick flash of the driver rubbing his head as the only acknowledgement of the brutal cash attack upon him.

After that the film invites us to empathize totally with Buster and his fellow-fugitives. His complainant wife June (Julie Walters) and daughter follow him to Mexico; but June misses Tesco, chips and England, and soon returns home. Love (not to speak of dwindling funds) brings Buster back in pursuit, to turn himself in for a 15-year stretch.

Anne Dudley's heavily sugared musical score underlines the pathos we are

meant to feel, as poor Buster is forced to leave the Queen and country he loves and plunders; is himself ripped off by his criminal colleagues; and is victimized by a corrupt establishment, engineering unduly heavy penalties (to criminal eyes at least) to offset the political effects of the Profumo affair.

What is objectionable in *Buster*, however, is not so much the moral ignorance as the assumption that the ordinary spectator will recognize Edwards as an appropriate hero for our times. It does not help, of course, that the film is just not very good. Colin Shindler's script gabbles on with the lax, banal, unrevealing dialogue of television soap opera. The director David Green's last film was *Car Trouble*, and he has not improved since then. There is a sense of desperation when he tries to relieve the flat, mechanical style by shooting the plotting scene on a turning playground roundabout.

On the bright side there is the discovery of the singer Phil Collins as a likeable comic actor in the manner of a junior league Bob Hoskins. Julie Walters as June and Sheila Hancock as her Mum are reliable as ever. As to the real Buster Edwards, he now runs a flower-stall at Waterloo, is a father figure to the

vagrants and wins under the bridge, and says he misses the criminal life and would do it all over again.

Buster is only the first of the lags from the past to be brought to the screen. Films about Ronnie Biggs and the Kray brothers are already on their way. The attraction, it seems is a new nostalgia for Britain's Sixties (*Buster* is full of heavy-handed documentary references), which in retrospect begin to look more louché than swinging.

Roman Polanski's misunderstandings with the law prevent him returning to the United States, hence the Parisian setting of his English-speaking thriller *Frantic*. The script is by Polanski in collaboration with the celebrated French screenwriter Gérard Brach; and the premise is much the same as an early Dirk Bogarde vehicle, *So Long at the Fair*. Harrison Ford plays an eminent American surgeon who arrives in Paris with his wife for a medical conference. No sooner do they discover that the wife has taken someone else's case in error than she is kidnapped from the hotel.

Ford finds himself enmeshed in a web of intrigue and violence, involving the French underworld, drugs, smuggling, Arab spies, American agents, incompetent French police, bureaucratic American diplomats and a beautiful junky *femme fatale* played by Emmanuelle Béart, the prospective Mrs Polanski.

In the way of such stories it all depends on convenient coincidences, logic as tenuous as a crossword clue, and unpredictably foolish reactions on everyone's part, in any situation. But Polanski is a film-maker; and his quirky eye gives the film a visual distinction and vitality that sustain attention even through an excessive two hours.

Alarming reports

TELEVISION

My local newspapers in West London are filled with stories of racial violence; by skinheads, by organized racist groups whose illegality never seems to be pursued, and by the police. Only the most extreme incidents reach the national press. *The Diary of Rita Patel* (BBC2) was a play whose narrative might have been constructed from these accounts. An Asian family, peaceful, industrious and with a blind faith in the processes of justice and democracy, moved to a new neighbourhood and was systematically terrorized by a group of local men. The attacks escalated from chanting and graffiti to firebombs, playground raids at the primary school and eventually the murder of the family's young son.

The feel of actuality is one of the most arresting qualities which a television play can possess. In addition, the diary written by the family's daughter had a naturalistic energy which was missing from the play's stilted dialogue. Her feelings had an urgency which was thwarted in the long, silent passages in which the drama repeatedly lost the viewers' interest.

The play aroused feelings of outrage and guilt but its characterization seemed weak, perhaps because both the adults in the

story had passive temperaments. There were moments of annoying naivety and others of sophisticated observation. Throughout, the viewer anticipated the news that this was a true story, but the announcement never came. In the end, the play seemed to amount to an illustrated sociological tract, rather than an artistic creation.

Wildworld (BBC2) presented *The Rhino War*, another stylistic hybrid, which added the techniques of investigative journalism to the lyrical clichés of a wildlife documentary. Produced with the National Geographic Society, it raised alarm for the fate of the black rhino, which is expected to be extinct in six years' time.

The wild population of this animal has already dwindled to insignificant numbers in every one of its native African habitats except Zimbabwe. Now poachers, armed and trained like guerrillas, have invaded that country and are exterminating animals as fast as they can find them. Against them is a conservationist army of 150 men, with one helicopter, two boats.

The animals are killed for their horns, an illegal but common import throughout the East. In North Yemen a dealer confessed to buying horns for \$350 a kilo and selling at \$700. A Zimbabwe rural family's monthly income is around £10.

Celia Brayfield

Comedic demolition man

THEATRE

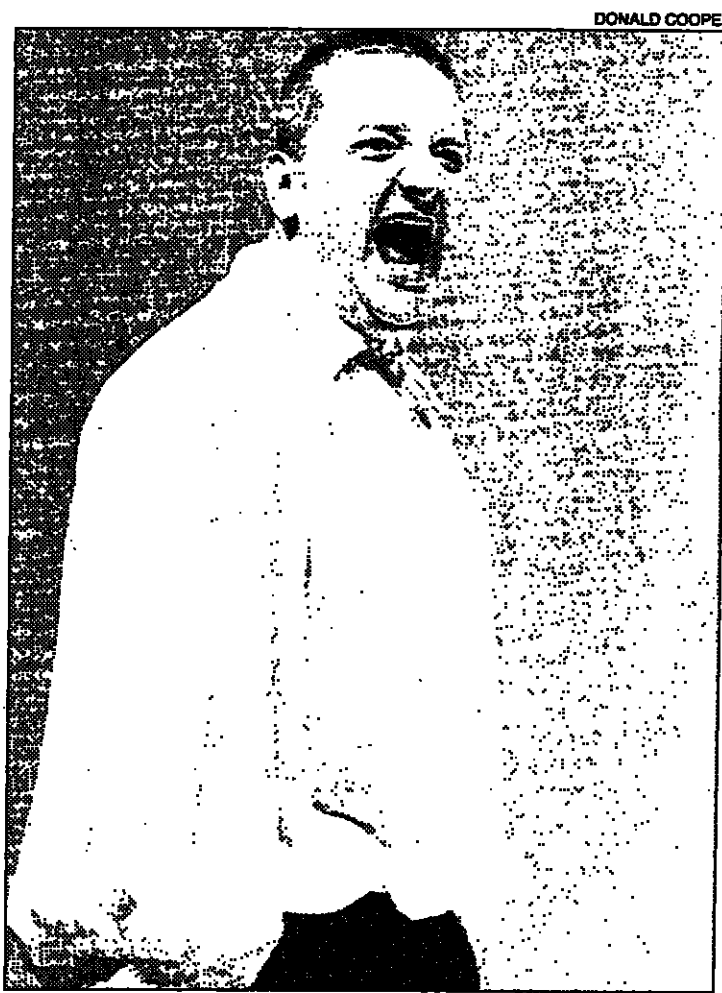
Restoration
Swan, Stratford

Completing the Swan's Restoration comedy season, and consigning the preceding repertory to a deep dark pit, Edward Bond's play is a frontal challenge to the English cult of style. When it first appeared in 1981, after Bond's parallel assaults on Greco-Roman and Shakespearean archetypes, *Restoration* came as welcome evidence that this increasingly didactic author had not lost his considerable comic powers.

Where Bond differs from similarly gifted writers is that he views comedy with mistrust. He can do it when he wants, but nowhere does he accept the idea of humour as a means of putting experience into just proportion. It is only part of a larger pattern; and, in particular, he rejects the assumption that you can get away with anything so long as you do it with style.

Such is the long-established franchise of the Restoration playwrights, which Bond sets out to demolish by removing a be-ribboned top from the safe haunts of his protected species and dragging him into the hurly-burly of the class struggle.

Lord Are, having grabbed the title at his father's death and run through his inheritance, lowers himself to a union with an iron master's daughter. Marital strife swiftly escalates to hatred; and when the bride descends on her breakfasting spouse dressed as a ghost, Are playfully runs her through; and then persuades Bob, a naive young country footman, to take the rap for the murder.



Secure in porcine self-satisfaction: Simon Russell Beale as Lord Are

Correctly surmising that the top tradition would escape unscathed unless the aristocratic villain lived up to his models, Bond has done a superlative job that goes far beyond pastiche. Are is all the great butterflies of Vanbrugh and Etherege rolled into one. He is first seen having himself arranged in a languishing posture against a tree

(rarely having seen one before) so as to avoid the tedium of a prolonged courtship. And when his wife lies dead at his feet, he maintains his imperturbable poise until he notices that his toast has gone cold.

The part marks the apotheosis of Simon Russell Beale, a specialist in blue-blooded 18th-century

debauchees, who brings to Are a porcine self-satisfaction so indestructible that he seldom sheds his winsome leer and affable manner, coming forward at moments of villainy to confide his amusing plots in total confidence of the spectators' complicity. Only at the end does he shed his cool. Having destroyed a pardon and sent Bob to the gallows, he returns in a spitting rage to tongue-lash the victim's mother (his housekeeper) for failing to stitch a button on to his coat.

I have dwelt on this character partly because it contains most of the play's life. If Bond hoped to see Are discredited by contrast with his below-stairs victims, he has failed. He has done his work too well. Bob (Duncan Bell) has his moments as a country greenhorn, picking up the habits of servitude while believing himself to be free; and there are some ably constructed scenes showing how working people absorb the property ethic and do their masters' dirty work for them. But it is dutifully manipulated material in comparison with the spontaneous life of their giggling enemy. And even the melodramatic fable is fractured by a series of parable-like songs which, even when not obliterated by Ilona Sekacz's Brechtian accompaniments, serve more to confuse than clarify.

Roger Michell directs the piece on a bare white platform backed alternately by white and black drapes. This supplies excellent comic focus, particularly for the country scenes (with a single downstage flower), but leaves the prison and hanging scenes looking nakedly diagrammatic. To present believable grief in these scenes is the remarkable achievement of Vivienne Rochester.

Irving Wardle

Stephanie von Buchau reports from Texas on new productions of Richard Strauss rarities

Open minded in the open air

US OPERA

In its 32 seasons, Santa Fe Opera has presented every opera by Richard Strauss except *Güntram* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Often these productions have been the first professional performances in the United States; this season's double-bill of *Feuersnot* and *Friedenstag* continued a noble tradition.

Neither work is from the composer's top drawer, yet Santa Fe's tolerant, "it needn't be a masterpiece" attitude is welcomed by any curious Straussian. Oddly, the earlier work, *Feuersnot*, proved the more palatable. Its title roughly translates as "need for fire" (i.e. warmth, life, sex, art). This 1901 comedy with a libretto by Ernst von Wolzogen tells the racy story of a Munich's midsummer eve when the mayor's disdainful daughter plays a mean trick on a bookish philosopher who desires her.

He turns out to be a wizard who douses the city's lights, delivers a stinging lecture on how badly Munich treated Richard Wagner (the waltzes aren't the only anachronism in this medieval tale!), and forces the repentant young woman to yield to him. At that point, the 37-year-old composer delivers one of his patented orchestral love scenes, holding both audience and on-stage chorus spellbound, until



Feuersnot: Ellis (left) and Tyree

a graphic musical climax restores the city's lights.

A balmy midsummer night in Santa Fe's outdoor theatre helped eliminate the potential embarrassments of such an indecicate plot. The company's general director, John Crosby, is not the most elegant conductor, but by the time he reached the lengthy argument between Kunrad (Brent Ellis) and Diemut (Mildred Tyree, the radiant Egyptian Helen of two seasons ago), both Crosby and his 72-piece orchestra were soaring.

Director Goran Järvefelt instigated minimal but telling action in Carl Friedrich Oberle's generic set. He was aided by the unique Santa Fe chorus (made up of

apprentice soloists) and by Ellis and Tyree, who applied considerable intensity and vocal stamina to their difficult roles. If only the music of their arias and duets were more consistently inspired, the entire performance might have been as rapturous as that final orchestral scene.

While *Feuersnot* offers a cornucopia of folk-quintessences, authentic German folk materials, Wagner paraphrases, and hints of the great Strauss operas to come, *Friedenstag* (Peace Day) is a problematic work that only a fanatic could love. Seventy minutes of grim military barking is capped by a relentlessly upbeat, banal finale.

Musical disappointments aside (the percussive, movie-music orchestration makes Alexander Nevsky seem as lyrical as *Camelot*) this 1938 work carries insurmountable political associations. Premiered in Munich just as the Third Reich was plunging into world war, *Friedenstag*'s putative librettist is Joseph Gregor, yet the work's real animator was Strauss's friend and collaborator Stefan Zweig, a Jew proscribed by the Nazis.

Who knows with what ambivalence the composer worked on Zweig's didactic story of a single-minded military commander who decides to blow up his besieged city, only to be persuaded otherwise by his loyal and loving wife? It is difficult not to sympathize with this desperately pacifistic theme, but the score is remarkably

unsophisticated for such a mature composer, and the characters are pure pasteboard.

With the commander (Michael Devlin) dressed in chic black leather and the starving townspeople lurching about like an amateur company of *Marat/Sade*, Järvefelt's production approached (unconsciously, I'm sure) Monty Pythonesque levels. However, the bombastic finale — a pale imitation of *Die Frau's* glorious C-major quartet — thrilled many, mostly because of Alessandra Marc's heroic efforts as the commander's wife.

A huge woman with an equally huge, laser-like soprano, Marc dominated the thundering orchestra and full chorus. Earlier in the piece, too much uncovered, unsupported, uncoloured lower and middle register singing made her performance one-dimensional.

A music of reason

SCO/Davies
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies is not the sort of man to rest on his laurels. Within the next few days, two new, substantial works, his long-anticipated opera, *Resurrection*, and his Trumpet Concerto for John Wallace and the Philharmonia Orchestra, will be unveiled to the world in Darmstadt, West Germany, and Hiroshima, Japan, respectively. London had its first glimpse of the Oboe Concerto on Tuesday night, when the composer conducted the Scottish Chamber Orchestra not only in that but in Haydn and Beethoven too.

Such a concert would once have been unthinkable, but now it simply reflects the direction of Davies' recent music. The Oboe Concerto, for instance, consciously harks back to Mozart in its three movements, fast-slow-fast, in its complementary rather than confrontational relationship between soloist and orchestra, in its abundant melodic leanings, in its sheer abstraction. That, however, is not to say that it is regressive, for one of Davies' main achievements has been to forge a new classicism, a music of reason which manages to be at once entirely original, cleverly structured (magic squares, tonic-dominant relationships of intervals other than perfect fifths, and all), and natural-sounding. Here these features are harnessed to the background — or rather backbone — of the Pentecostal chant *Dum compendatur*, whose dramatic implications surface in patches of more fevered music, such as the soloist's enormous cadenza at the end of the first movement.

Robin Miller was a rather timid soloist in the face of a hugely demanding solo part, perhaps it was down to a roughish reed that dynamic contrasts were not always as vivid as they might have been. Still, he negotiated his hazardous path with a lovely tone and some sensitive phrasing, while the SCO played as responsively as they did in Davies' sparkling, rather than dark, account of Haydn's "Traveller" Symphony (complete with continuo) and in his revealingly strong reading of Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony.

Stephen Pettitt

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The regions grasp their chance

Improvements in the national economy have given Britain's poorer areas an opportunity they are determined to use. And, reports David Walker, with government help, they are seeing results

"If we can't do it now, we never will," Keith Beaumont sits in the Yorkshire and Humberside regional office of the Department of the Environment just a few days before his move to Sheffield last week to become chief executive of the new urban development corporation there.

He expresses a common sentiment. If the upturn in the economy, which pushed the growth rate up to 4½ per cent last year and officially recorded unemployment down to a million below the 1980s peak, does not provide the wherewithal for regional development, it will never happen.

Put in the accents of South Yorkshire, the same point might be made more pitifully as people from Doncaster and even Rotherham start to talk like Londoners about property-price inflation and Sheffield compares its new super-retail centre with the floor-space of the MetroCentre in Gateshead and looks forward to the construction opportunities associated with its hosting of the World Student Games.

A tour around the regional employment black spots would produce signs aplenty of a quickened pace in the

House prices and employment are up; dependence on motor-car production has at last ended

local and regional economies. A sector-by-sector analysis that started with retailing or residential property would look bullish, too.

In Corby, the Northamptonshire former steel town, the huge and much-discussed project to site a theme park on abandoned iron workings has finally secured the participation of a big leisure specialist, Brent Walker.

In Coventry, house prices are up, unemployment is down and the days of dependence on motor-car production as a staple employer are over for good. In Newcastle, old records for retail sales are being broken and along the Tyne quays there is new housing, a hotel, a heritage centre, auditorium and prom. But

such harbingers of economic renewal still leave the question: when will the gap between the outlying regions and the South-East start to close; when will prosperity unite the kingdom in such a way that special measures to assist and subsidize economic activity in the North, North-West, Yorkshire, Scotland and Wales are no longer needed?

In a strict sense, the Government has already answered. Last week the Prime Minister gave her provisional blessing to moves that would amalgamate the activities in Scotland of the Training Commission, the Scottish Development Agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

In the Department of Trade and Industry the old framework of regional assistance within strictly defined areas has been replaced by its Enterprise Initiative, designed to promote private-sector enterprise across the country, albeit retaining selective grants for training and investment for companies growing and operating in the regions with higher unemployment.

But the DTI is, of course, not the only department with a stake in regional development. Government policy towards the regions — viewed from Whitehall — can only, and charitably, be called confusing.

To take a recent example: Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, announced that he wants all his executive civil servants moved out of London, leaving only policy advisers, needing continuous access to ministers and Parliament, in high-cost London offices. Department of Employment staff will be moving to Sheffield and to Runcorn.

But is Mr Fowler anticipating a general move by the Government to reduce congestion in London and the South-East and spread public expenditures more equitably around the regions? If government policy on airport location is taken as a guide, no considered regional dimension is apparent.

Last March, Mrs Thatcher launched Action for Cities, "a new drive to bring the benefits of Britain's economic success to the inner cities", and to coordinate better the various government schemes. On the ground, businesses in the regions are as likely to look to the Department of the Environment for assistance,



Sheffield's Lower Don Valley: More than a third of what was once the keystone of local industry was left derelict by the closure of eight large companies. Now the city's urban development corporation is renovating the landscape with small industrial units, leisure sites and a riverside walkway

A shadow falls over Scotland

The formal withdrawal last week by the Trades Union Congress from the Government's Employment Training Initiative for the long-term unemployed may have set in train a sequence of events that could end in the death of an institution that, barring the odd critical report from the auditors, has won universal praise for its role in stimulating regional economic development.

"Regional needs some qualification," writes David Walker. For this is the Scottish Development Agency, and its remit is regional, but within the bounds of Scotland which by history and sentiment is a nation.

A shadow now hangs over both the SDA and its coadjutor in Scottish regional development, the Highlands and Islands Development Board; both are candidates for amalgamation into a new and rather different body with a considerably narrower remit than either.

The sequence runs like this. The withdrawal of the TUC brings into question — Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, has been hinting — the continued existence of the Training Commission, successor to



Sir Robin Duthie: Productivity is up

the Manpower Services Commission.

The commission is one of the few remaining "tripartite" organizations: it includes nominees of the TUC as well as of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Fowler's reasoning is that if the TUC will not accept a programme worked out through the Training Commission, they have no right to sit

on it, and once they have gone the case for a statutory body overseeing training is fatally weakened. His thinking runs in parallel with a plan hatched north of the border by Bill Hughes, a business leader with close ties to the Scottish Conservative Party.

Apparently with the approval of Mrs Thatcher, Mr Hughes has been working up a scheme for Scottish Enterprise, an umbrella for local businessman-led committees which would organize training and job placement for the unemployed, inner city and development schemes and industrial grants. The SDA would be swallowed alive.

There is an intriguing paradox here. Visitors to Scotland, from the Prime Minister down, are sure to stop off in Glasgow and visit one or other of the various schemes (Glasgow's East End, Clydebank, Govan, the Garden Festival) undertaken with SDA participation: they regularly come away with a positive impression of how well Glasgow is transforming itself from a grimy and depressed industrial city into a post-modern, service-based urban centre.

But if Glasgow, or Scotland's econ-

omy at large (to which the SDA contributes through its attraction of inward investment and grants to companies) are doing so well, visitors say, what further need is there for costly agencies?

"We have a skilled work-force, excellent education systems, a developed research infrastructure and good communications."

"Our institutions are increasingly ready to respond to market demands and to take advantage of opportunities. Our productivity, our industrial relations and our profitability are continuing to improve. All these factors provide an ideal base for investment and re-investment in Scotland."

So said Sir Robin Duthie, chairman of the SDA in his annual report for 1988; but in such a context did the SDA need the £91 million it received as grant in aid?

There has been much talk since the last election of applying "Thatcherism" more rigorously to Scotland. The abolition of the SDA, a surviving creature of Harold Wilson's 1974 government, would be a powerful signal of that intention.

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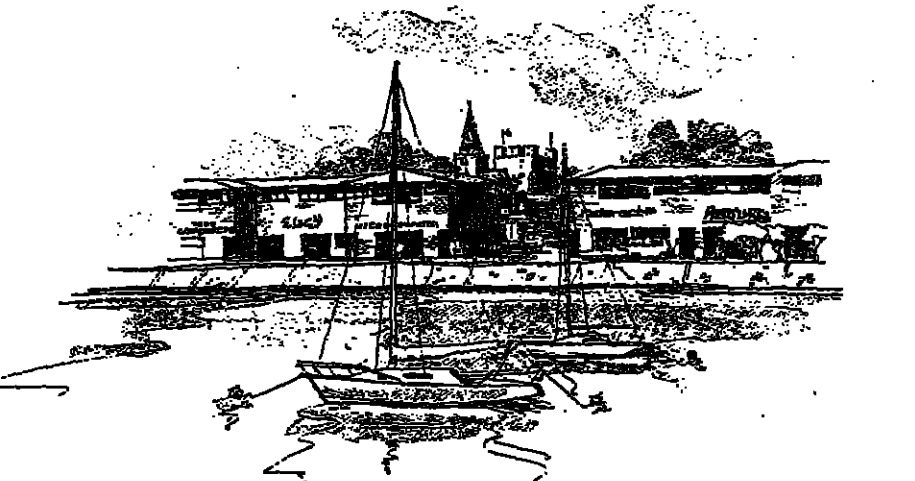
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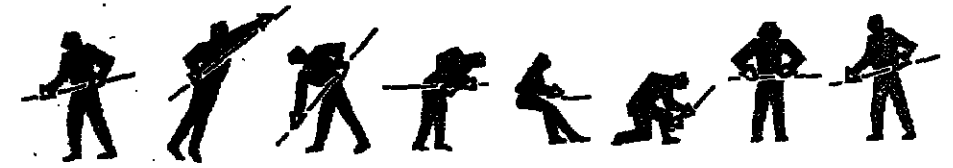
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Rebirth of the derelict berths

New task forces are heading the Government's drive against urban decay, says Peter Davenport

The chief executive of the Merseyside Development Corporation, Dr John Ritchie, has become accustomed to reeling off statistics automatically. However, despite the reputation, they remain impressive. When the corporation was launched, at the same time as that which was to tackle London Docklands, the scale of the task in hand in Liverpool would have daunted all but the most optimistic. Its job was to revive and regenerate 860 acres of largely derelict, decayed and decrepit waterfront that had a population of only 250 and a workforce of merely 1,500, earning their daily bread in a miserable collection of tumbledown sheds and workshops.

It had to be given a new look, a fresh image and an alternative, viable future.

"The entire social facilities for the area consisted of one public toilet and two telephone boxes. Rental was about 15 pence a sq ft and hardly worth the collecting," said Dr Ritchie, originally the corporation's director of development and its chief executive these past three years.

So great was the dereliction that of the £120 million of government funds it has used, £80 million went on reclamation work. For each acre of land bought for a mere £6,000, the corporation had to spend up to £100,000 on restoring it to a level where it was worth £40,000 an acre in commercial market terms.

Today that story has dramatically changed and now, around the country as well as in Liverpool, development corporations have become the main weapon in the Government's fight against urban decay.

The remarkable transformation of Liverpool's waterfront into a prestigious and attractive area of high-class housing, leisure and retail developments that includes the Albert Dock, the Tate of the

North and the Maritime Museum, is well documented and a model of what can be achieved against the odds.

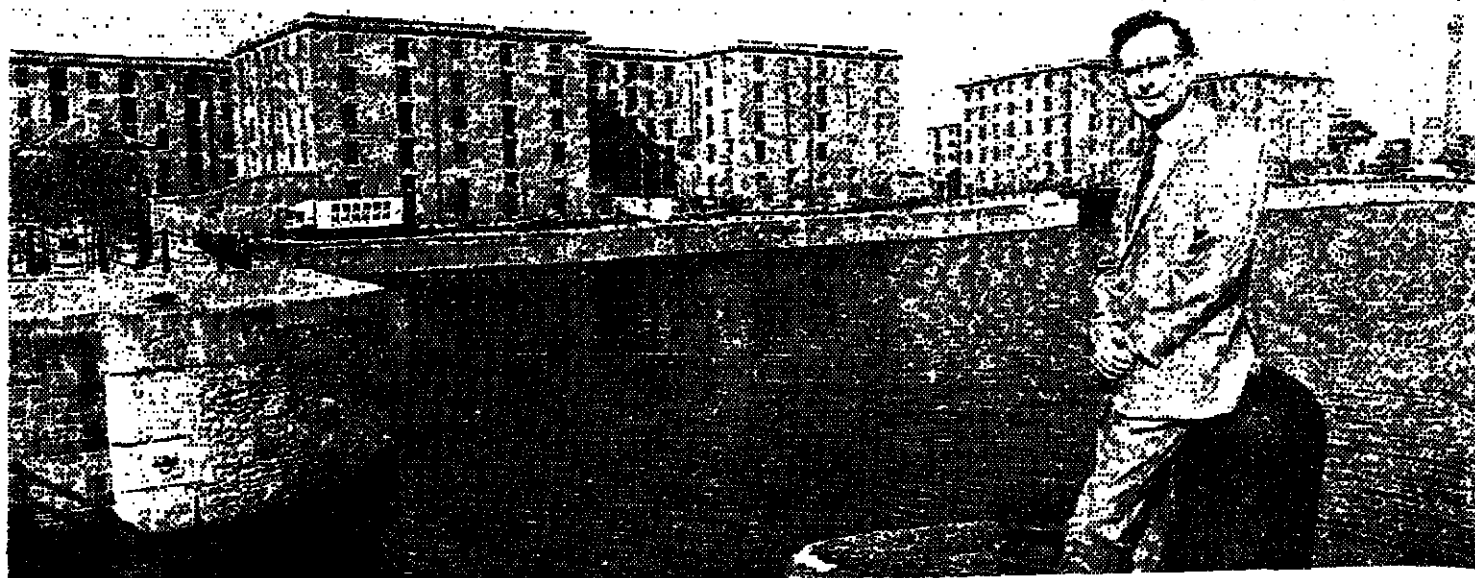
An illustration of the growing return of confidence on Merseyside, both as a place to live, play, work and, increasingly to invest, came when the latest batch of flats in a converted building next to the Tate were put on the market, the day after Prince Charles formally opened the Albert Dock earlier this year.

The first 20 available units, costing between £50,000 and £70,000, the very top of the range in Liverpool, were snapped up within 48 hours with the remaining 80 units sold, on the strength of illustrations alone, within two weeks.

The regeneration of the Liverpool waterfront was leisure-led, followed by residential development, which then triggered an increase in industrial prosperity which has now encouraged the market in office building.

There are now 2,500 people working in the transformed waterfront area in decent, humane conditions and rental rates now make investment attractive.

After five difficult years, es-



Dr John Ritchie: Liverpool is a model of what can be achieved against the odds

pecially at the height of the confrontation between the Militant-dominated city council and central government, which sent business, industrial and commercial confidence plummeting, Dr Ritchie says the good times are coming back to Merseyside.

The last 12 months have shown, he says, a tremendous turnaround in the attitude of investors and developers and the MDC has played a major part in that, along with local authorities. "Very seriously, the message now is invest in Liverpool. Five years from now you will be too late."

Such has been the success of the MDC that its area of operations is to be extended by 1,600 acres to take in further large chunks of Liverpool, Birkenhead and New

Brighton in a major programme of regeneration. This, when completed in 10 years, will completely change the face of the city.

The proposals are to be formally approved by Parliament in the next session and it is expected to involve at least £95 million of new government money which is targeted to attract £180 million of private sector capital, with further financial spin-offs in adjacent areas.

There are now 10 urban development corporations at work in areas throughout the country which have some of the most difficult social and environmental problems. They are the government's main weapon in the fight to reverse urban decay and bring increased prosperity.

Together they cover more than 40,000 acres and in the current financial year the Government will support them with funding of more than £200 million.

London Docklands is the most spectacular. During its seven years of existence it has spent £385 millions of government grant but secured a further £3 billion of private investment to transform the waterfront of the capital.

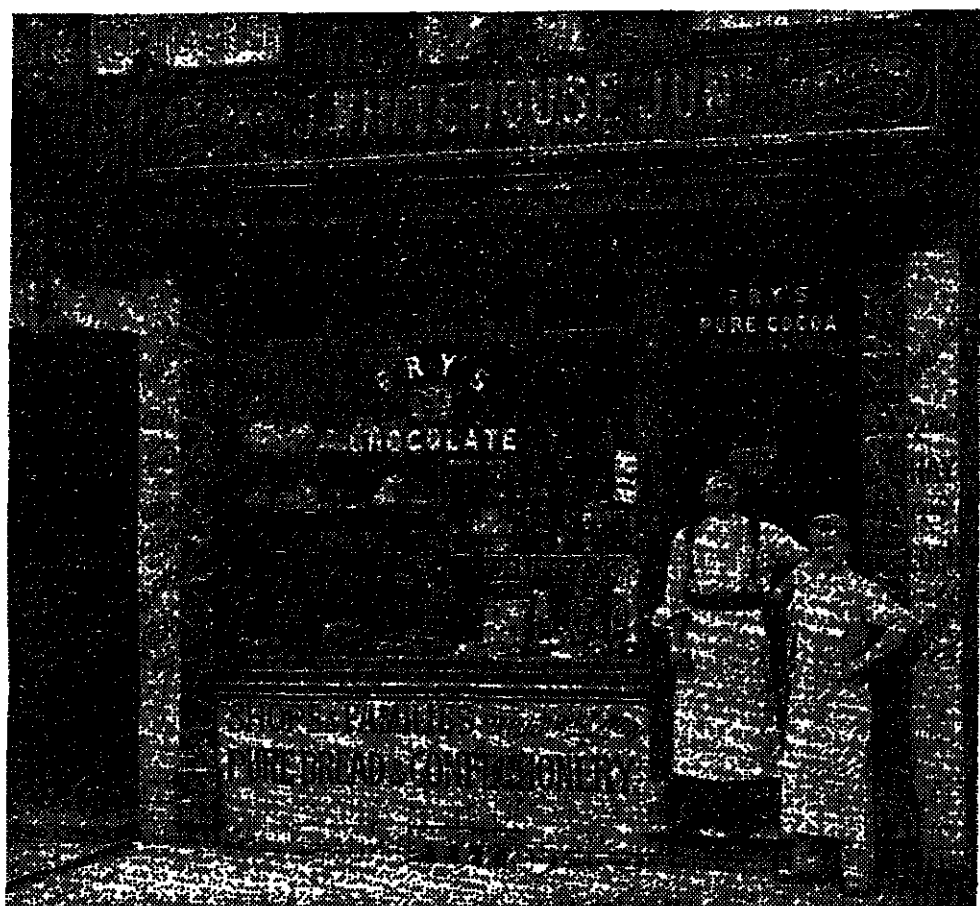
It has reclaimed 925 acres, built 8,000 homes and attracted 10,000 new jobs but its location close to the City has meant that it has been a special case, making investment that much easier to secure.

The 10 development corporations in action — with arguments about the establishment of another, in Bristol, still going on,

with objections by the Labour local authority to be aired before a House of Lords Committee next month — have been introduced in three phases.

London and Liverpool were the first, set up in 1981; in spring, 1987 the second batch followed in the Black Country, Teesside, Tyne and Wear, Cardiff and Trafford Park. Other UDCs have since been set up in Sheffield, Central Manchester and Leeds.

They share widespread powers in relation to purchase of land, housing and planning and have not been universally welcomed by local authorities in whose areas they have been set up. That resentment and reluctance to co-operate remains in some locations although most have gone on to take a more pragmatic approach.



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A profit from a helping hand



Robert Stopforth: helping the UK economy

The idea for Robert Stopforth's own company came while he was working as a senior executive in the Special Steels division of the British Steel Corporation, handling applications for government grant assistance for 34 sites around the country.

"It occurred to me", he said, "that there must be lots of companies and enterprises that were simply not maximizing the assistance to which they were entitled."

Today, only four years after he launched his own company, Financial Aid Services (FAS), it has grown into an organization employing about 20 people, which has helped more than 1,400 companies of all sizes to obtain government grants of well over £20 million.

It is now set to go international by establishing a base in Lisbon, to guide inward investors through the maze of available EEC and national grants.

In the UK alone, central government pays out more than £500 million a year in discretionary grants that fall into any one of about 400 different headings, many aimed at encouraging regional development.

Sources in industry estimate that up to half of all applications which go through are made with outside, specialist help.

For the new businessman about to embark on his first venture the prospect of entering the bureaucratic maze of grant application is daunting; but it is no less a problem for the large, established firm.

Industry stems from grant aid

The scale and complexity of grant aid, despite the efforts of government departments, local authorities and development agencies to simplify the system, has led to the creation of a highly-specialized industry of its own.

Mr Stopforth is now the group managing director of FAS. Its headquarters in the UK are on the first floor of a purpose-built English Estates unit opposite the police station and a magistrates court in the centre of Barnsley. It also has offices in Rotherham and Treforest, near Cardiff in South Wales.

In its literature, FAS explains its services as: "The grant field, despite attempts by the Government to simplify it, remains a complicated one and increasingly grants are becoming discretionary, with companies having to demonstrate to the Department of Industry that they are at once both viable and in need of financial assistance."

"There is an attempt to ensure that grant aiding one company does not simply result in an adverse effect on other UK competitors. The

Government is also not now interested in simply shifting jobs around the UK and the days are gone when companies qualified for grant simply by moving to an assisted area. All applications are subject to a stringent examination.

"This is where FAS comes in. We give an opinion on whether a particular project will qualify, draw up the submission to go to the Government and help with negotiations with officials."

A vast range of grants negotiated

skilled advice on maximizing what is already on the table.

At least it helps speed up the application process and at best ensures the financial assistance without which the proposed development would never get off the ground.

"We see it as helping both the company and the government and, in the end therefore, the UK economy."

He believes that since its creation FAS has helped to create between 5,000 and 10,000 jobs by enabling new companies to start up or others to expand.

Much of the work has been in the North-East of England and in Wales. The company maintains close contacts with regional government departments, local authorities and development agencies, ensuring it keeps abreast of opportunities for the companies which are its clients.

The range of grants it has negotiated is vast; the smallest was £1,200, from a local authority for a new company just starting up, to the largest — £4.2 million for a European firm setting up in the UK for the first time and creating 300 new jobs.

Apart from some fixed charges, FAS works on a sliding scale of fees up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the grant obtained.

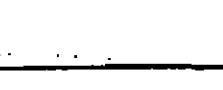

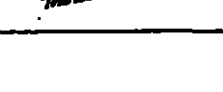
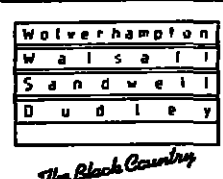

The main risks in the business are that, because of the selective nature of grant aid, applications can fall through change of circumstances and through no fault of the company. Unsuccessful applications do not pay the FAS wage bill.

Mr Stopforth also believes that the services of companies like his also help to weed out unscrupulous applicants, thus saving government time and money.





Recent changes in Portuguese legislation, he says, means that foreign firms undertaking grant aided development can repatriate their profits.

Peter Davenport

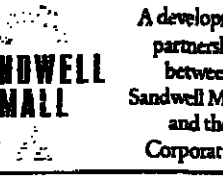



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The strategy for involvement

Redefining the social responsibility of business is meeting
with a groundswell of enthusiasm, writes Peter Davenport

"What we are about," said Tom Frost, group chief executive of the National Westminster Bank and chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's Task Force on the inner cities, "is redefining the social responsibilities of business."

"There is an amazingly positive mood among businessmen, a tremendous groundswell feeling that they want to be involved which I find very, very heartening."

Since February this year Mr Frost and the 14 members of his Task Force, which includes leading industrial and commercial figures from around the country together with the CBI director-general Mr John Banham, have been putting together a strategy to get businessmen involved in the regeneration of their communities on an unprecedented level.

Their recommendations are contained in a report, *Initiatives Beyond Charity* which will be presented to the CBI conference in Torquay on November 8.

Detailed discussions will follow at a special one day conference on the Task Force report to be held on November 24.

Mr Frost is confident that it will provide a blueprint for a series of

initiatives in towns and cities throughout the country in which local business will work with councils and government agencies to bring their own particular commercial skills and enterprise to the task of regeneration.

"Wherever we have been in the last six months while preparing our report we have found businessmen saying 'What can we do?' Sometimes it is just a question of unlocking a blockage, be it over legal questions about land, the lack of a common agenda or there being no composite vision."

"Essentially the initiatives have to be local although we will help in setting it up and showing the way."

According to Mr Frost, the strength of local involvement lies in the fact that people who are committed to a town or city by their business and family life are all that more determined to make efforts to provide a better future for the community of which they are a part.

The CBI, said Mr Frost, was not claiming to have discovered the problem of the inner-cities; rather it was bringing its own particular expertise to a problem already

being tackled by numerous agencies.

One intention was to develop a permanent core team of experts, probably based under the auspices of Business in the Community, which would be able to provide advice and guidance to locally initiated schemes.

As an example of what can be done the Task Force is holding up the work of the Newcastle Initiative, a coming together of local businessmen, the council, academics and government agencies on Tyneside.

It is, said Mr Frost, the "practical embodiment" of the report he and his team have prepared.

"We are trying to provide the torch that will set similar fires burning all around the country. We want to be the catalyst to make things happen and then be able to pull back and allow the local initiative to run itself."

Among the members of the CBI national task force are the North East developer and entrepreneur Mr John Hall and Professor John Goddard, Director of the Centre for Urban and Rural Development Studies at Newcastle University.

Their enthusiasm and commit-



People are acting with the well-being of the community as the backdrop

BILL HAY
Chief Executive
Newcastle
Initiative

ment ensured that the city was first off the ground with a practical scheme that reflected the CBI thinking. Others are in hand for Birmingham and Bristol.

The project quickly identified five flagship projects for the inner city and then established task forces to oversee each scheme.

Among the schemes now in hand are the creation of a theatre village based around the restored Tyne Theatre, the re-building of the city's historic commercial centre from Grey Street to the old Quayside and capitalizing on the region's strong Japanese presence by establishing Japanese restaurants, financial institutions and martial arts training centres.

Already some 200 professionals, ranging from architects, designers, developers and builders are giving their time and ability free of charge to the initiative. The Northumbria Branch of the Royal Institute of British Architects are undertaking an exercise to draw up a comprehensive plan for the theatre village which will incorporate arts, leisure and modern housing in the inner city.

Such has been the impact of the initiative that, for example, where there were initially only half a dozen loose proposals for the village, there are now some 26 closely co-ordinated schemes.

The Newcastle Initiative has no

statutory or financial powers and operates through the ability and influence of its directors. Its aims are to provide a basis for discussion between the public and private sector, to identify flagship proposals and attract commercial support for them and to generate national and international interest in the commercial opportunities in the city.

The chief executive of the initiative is Mr Bill Hay, on secondment from a senior position locally with British Telecom. He says the organization is working alongside the city council, the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation and government departments in the region which

have already expressed support for its programme.

Mr Hay says he has been delighted by the level of response. "The spirit of this initiative is that people are acting with the well-being of the community as the backdrop," he added.

Members of the CBI national Task Force visited several American cities which have successfully regenerated their centres and revived their economies.

The hope is that once the report and its recommendations have been digested, there will be similar schemes to those already underway in Newcastle springing up in other towns and cities based on their own local priorities.

Enterprise Zones
may meet rough
justice in future

The year 1992 has come to carry symbolic weight as the date of implementation of the European Communities single market, writes David Walker. For some businesses in the regions it has a quite different significance.

It will be the first year after the cessation of the rates exemption and capital allowances given to companies setting up in the first generation of Enterprise Zones, including the zone which houses the celebrated Metro Centre in Gateshead. And there are analysts and estate agents who wonder whether the cold douche of unsubsidized existence that year might be too much of a shock for certain enterprises to sustain.

No one is suggesting that Mr John Hall, the Tyneside entrepreneur who has made Metro Centre such a success will suddenly pull out his stake when the Enterprise Zone privileges disappear, but the altered balance sheet calculations may be interesting.

Enterprise Zones have undoubtedly been successful as a flag for the Government's first batch of policies for the depressed regions. The minister who instituted the first of them in 1981, Michael Heseltine, recently said: "the overwhelming evidence that visibly emerged of investment and activity on previously abandoned sites."

But there has been criticism from accountants, MPs, and

government has been reluctant to produce exact figures for cost-per-job created in the EZs.

Mr Heseltine, for his part, says that inevitably there is a rough justice in the Enterprise Zone approach. "But if governments are anxious to target specific problem areas, lines have to be drawn. There will, of course, be complaints from those on the wrong side." He goes on: "Enterprise Zones and judicious use of public funds for pump-priming are essential tools in the armoury of government in its work with the private sector to bring back prosperity to some of our more run down areas."

In the West Midlands, the

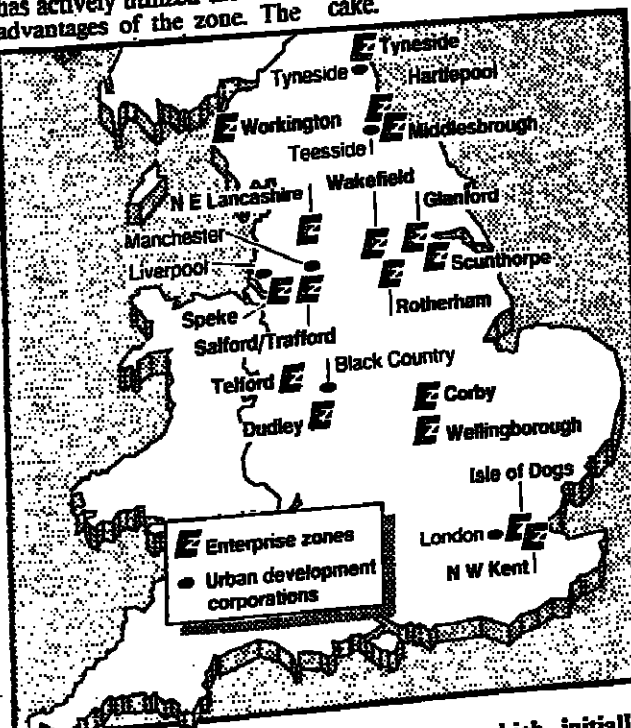
Expensive icing
on the cake?

debate about EZs has focussed on the retail sector. The Dudley enterprise zone has captured several big retail schemes posing - critics say - a threat to city shops in Birmingham. Wolverhampton and Sandwell. Enterprise zones in North Kent have been criticized for unfairly subsidizing warehouse operations which would, given the boom in the South East, have located there anyway.

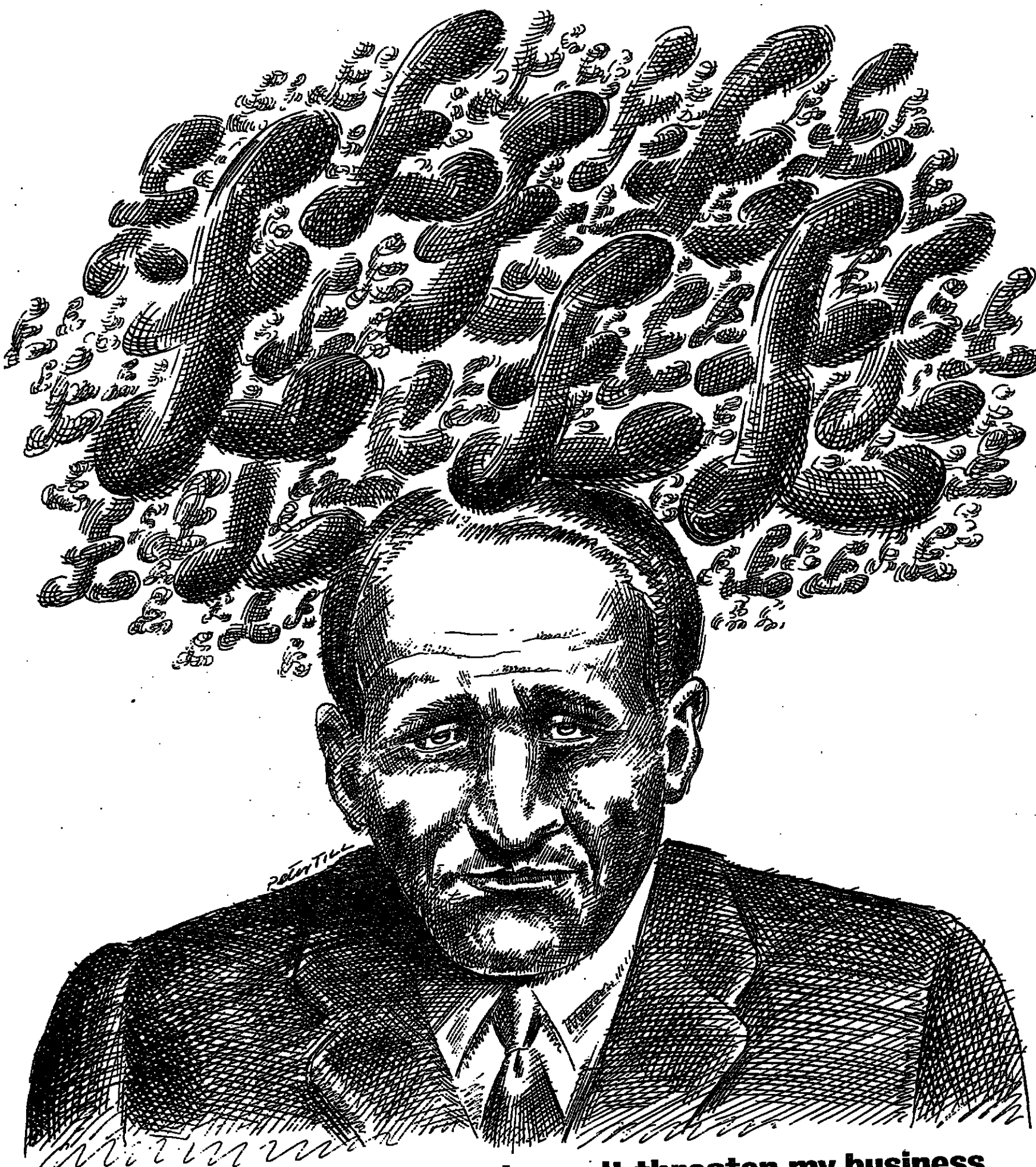
But according to David Homewood, a consultant at the North Kent Enterprise Office, the granting of EZ status to five industrial estates in the Rochester and Gillingham area in 1983 and three years later to the redundant Chatham docks gave a great push to economic development. "Since then the area has never looked back."

He acknowledges, however, that the booming economic conditions in the zones have been caused in part by the Channel Tunnel scheme, the completion of the M25 London Orbital Motorway and parallel development of retail sites outside the zones by enterprise-minded local authorities in the Medway area.

His conclusion that "the future looks very good for the Medway towns and Gravesend" is borne out by the general health of the south east economy; but it leaves open the question whether Enterprise Zones and their fiscal and other privileges were expensive icing on the cake.



England's Enterprise Zones: companies which initially moved for the tax and rates benefits are now establishing themselves permanently even though most zones will lose their special status in the early 1990s



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DEVELOPMENT/4Three men with
inspired visionsPeter Davenport reviews the entrepreneurial style
of thought that brought new life to the North-East

Imaginative development projects, often inspired by individual entrepreneurs with a social conscience, are providing the catalyst for the regeneration of once-depressed areas around the country. As well as directly creating thousands of new jobs in themselves, these developments are also re-building confidence in the regions where they are located, stimulating investment and transforming local economies.

There can be few better examples than that of the Dean Clough Industrial Complex at Halifax in West Yorkshire, a success story so remarkable that even those who passionately believe in the revival of the provinces have to read the bare statistics more than once to take it all in.

Under its original guise, a Victorian vast Crossley Carpets mill, it was the work of 5,000 people. But it was more than just the centre of employment. Because of the social commitment of the Crossley family the firm had as much impact on the town as the Rowntrees have had on York.

When it closed in 1982, shedding its last 600 workers, it was seen as symbolic of the downward spiral of the town's fortunes. Then along came Ernest Hall, former chairman and joint managing director of the Mountleigh Group, with a vision of a better future.

Mr Hall, now aged 58, is no

ordinary businessman and his plan was no ordinary idea. Trained as a classical pianist, and still giving performances around the country, Mr Hall wanted to create an entire business community, which also played its part in the social, educational and cultural life of the town and the larger Calderdale Valley.

Six years on he has succeeded. There are now more than 200 different companies, many of them new start-ups, based in the complex employing some 2,000 people and generating £200 million of business each year.

The aim was to satisfy individual needs
against a backdrop of community pride

The complex also has its own artist-in-residence and a permanent art director responsible for the pictures, including many originals works, along one mile of corridors.

The success of the Dean Clough complex, lauded by Government ministers and Prince Charles in his role as president of Business in the Community, has been the catalyst for a wholesale revival of the Calderdale Valley, in which BIC has been partnered with the local authority.

Mr Hall says: "The renaissance of Calderdale is a statement of our determination to achieve local

regeneration but not of a narrow economic kind alone. We have a commitment to provide the broadest range of experiences for as many local people as possible, and to satisfy the need for individual achievement against a backdrop of civic culture and pride in the local community."

That kind of commitment is reflected elsewhere too.

In the North-East, the entrepreneur and developer John Hall (no relation to his Yorkshire counterpart) had more than his fair share of doubters and critics when he announced plans to build Europe's largest covered

shopping and leisure complex at Gateshead on Tyneside, hardly the location that would have automatically come to mind for such a scheme.

Mr Hall, a miner's son and a fervent believer in "provincial regeneration", secured financial backing for the £200 million Metro Centre from the Church Commissioners.

Today the centre houses 300 stores in its spacious and attractive malls, has created 5,000 jobs and averages some 300,000 customers a week who come by car (100,000 vehicles a week), rail (60 trains a day call at the centre's own station), and bus (100 an hour).



Success: John Hall acclaims his £200 million Metro Centre

Tunnel
raises
worries

The creation of the Single European Market in 1992 and the opening of the Channel Tunnel the following year are being hailed by the Government as twin opportunities for British business.

But people in the regions are worried that the opportunities will pass them by and make their job of reviving their economies that much harder.

Their fear is that business will want to be as close to the tunnel as possible to derive maximum benefit most from cuts in delivery times and transport costs.

The North of England Regional Consortium (NORC), an all-party grouping of northern local authorities and development agencies, says the tunnel and the single market "must be a cause of concern for all regions north and west of London."

Its research to gauge the impact of the tunnel showed that while some businesses in

The imports could
counter exports

the North would benefit, firms in the South would gain far more and that France stands to gain the most business.

The organization said: "This may be particularly important for inward investment, given that as the UK has moved to centralize its grants system by ending regional development grants, France and The Netherlands, among other European competitors, retain more generous and catholic systems of grant."

Its research found that in the case of textiles and metal manufacturing industries, increased exports to the EEC would be outweighed by increased imports with the net result that employment and output would decline.

In chemicals and mechanical engineering, however, the research suggested these would benefit by improving the trade balance with Europe.

The report said that the overall effect of the tunnel was likely to mean that the North would suffer a decline in prosperity relative to the South.

The consortium wants the Government to sanction British Rail to begin major

The Government
rejects fears

improvements on the routes serving the North to help spread the benefits of the tunnel more evenly.

It wants a high-speed route to the tunnel which links directly with lines to the North and an upgrading of lines and freight distribution facilities for the North.

The Government insists that the tunnel will benefit the whole of the country, particularly by cutting transport costs and delivery times. Longer journeys, of more than 500km, were the sort of distances at which rail becomes an attractive proposition, according to Michael Portillo, the Transport Minister.

He told a recent conference in York: "Regional disadvantages, far from being increased, are likely to be reduced. Manufacturers in the Midlands and the North will no longer be competing in Continental markets with one hand tied behind their backs."



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Working where
you want to live

"Unlike smokestack industries that need access to raw materials, energy and transportation, high-tech plants locate where the quality of life is high enough to draw a skilled workforce," says James Howell, chief economist at the Bank of Boston.

Studies in the United States confirm the banker's point, writes David Walker. Boston has preserved its charm and sense of history, the physical attractions of New England are all within a few hours' drive.

Is what is true for Boston a recipe for cities in the British regions? Cities such as Cardiff and Newcastle have woken up to the fact that they have substantial cultural assets — universities, opera companies, museums — which not only act as a magnet for tourism (and help job creation through that route) but augment the climate for other businesses.

There are few vantage points in the city of Sheffield that do not command striking views of the mid-England heights; attractive countryside is within easy reach. More prosaically, the disparity in house prices between London and the South-East and the rest of the country means that the same salary can command great differences in the size and quality of the home.

The surveys published by such companies as Mintel regularly give the northern

cities high rankings on such quality of life indices as travelling time to work, housing costs and "green" factors.

The most systematic appraisal was published recently by Derrick Wade and Waters. Drawing on the work of planners and geographers it did two things: attempted to give a fairer picture of what life in Manchester and Gateshead and other urban centres was like, and to identify in a number of smaller northern towns "bright lights" offering an existence comparable to and probably superior to anywhere in the South-East.

It also showed that January temperatures in Wirral are much the same as at Kew Gardens on London's outskirts.

If the industries and services of post-industrial Britain are to depend on human skills, which in turn are attracted by such things as good restaurants, golf courses and antique shops, then within the northern region, says the report, there are premier locations.

These include Beverley in Humberside, with above average rates for owner occupation, educational qualifications and car ownership; Congleton in Cheshire; Thirsk in North Yorkshire; Clitheroe in Lancashire; and Morpeth in Northumberland.

● Northern Lights: A Development Agenda for the North in the 1990s

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BOOKS

GLYN BOYD HART

G.B.S. as a young dog

Richard Holmes reviews the first stage in a quest for Shaw, protean man and superman

Writing the life of Bernard Shaw appears to be a perilous business. It killed off the incorrigible Frank Harris, though Shaw sympathetically completed the manuscript for his destitute widow. It wrecked Professor Demetrius O'Boyle on the rocks of libel, even though, as Shaw observed regretfully, he was the son of an Irish police inspector. It took Archibald Henderson, the first "authorized" biographer (an American mathematician), 50 long years to reach completion (1956), after Shaw had personally vetted him for staying-power back in 1907, when a newspaper headline read: "Shaw Meets Biographer St Pancras Station - Declares Biography a Terrific Task - Says Only A Desperate Character Could Write His Life."

Heartfelt congratulations, therefore, to Michael Holroyd, who has survived 15 years, and with startling alacrity has now produced the first (of three) mighty volumes, which takes us up to Shaw's unexpected marriage at the age of 42, and his first stage-hit, *The Devil's Disciple*. It is, in every sense, a spectacular piece of work.

It must be understood that the book is quite unlike any previous biography, and will make many Shawians spin in their urns. (Shaw espoused cremation rather than biographical resurrection.) Yet it is instantly recognizable as a brilliant *commedia* from the elegant master-hand that cast the spell of *Lytton Strachey* and *Augustus John*. Buoyed up, rather than freighted, with a mass of hidden documentation (all sources, be it back until vol. 3), it sails along with the swift, complex life of a major novel of manners. It is the Quintessence of Holroydism.

Who but Holroyd could conjure up, for example, Shaw's whole flirtation with the anarchism of the 1880s, in a single sentence of marvellous fact and feline implication, such as the following: "Most notorious of all was 'Sergius Szepiaki', the Russian nihilist and author of manuals on home-made explosives and guerrilla warfare, dangerously described by Shaw as 'an amiable middle-aged gentleman', who had turned up in London after stabbing to death the chief of the Russian secret police in the streets of St Petersburg, but who now entertained girls from Lady Margaret Hall to tea, and was

soon to die, ignominiously caught by the heel ('Achilles-like', Shaw suggested) on a suburban level-crossing."

The texture of the entire biography is closely woven in this way, a feat of style as much as of research, which will surely make it a flamboyant new landmark in modern English life-writing.

The technical perils to be navigated (quite apart from longevity) are many, however. Shaw's "multitudinous personality" - the sheer range of his adopted roles, as novelist, critic, playwright, Fabian, tractarian, feminist, philosopher, vegetarian, and bicyclist - is one problem. Here Holroyd is immensely ambitious, and largely successful. He uses a multiple time-structure, constantly inter-leaving public and private life, running back and forth through the chronology, to catch each protean manifestation. Set pieces on such essentially Shawian articles as the beard, the bicycle, the typewriter, the diet, the wool-wear ("a Jaeger Christ") are carried off with memorabilia.

Great narrative risks are taken, such as delaying news of Shaw's sister's marriage (1887) till the last pages, to illuminate the emotional drama. Yet it is sometimes easy to get lost in these excursions, and one might plead for more pedestrian signposting in vol. 2 - chapter titles, running heads, and dates and better identification of quoted passages from the prose.

The intricate relationship between Shaw's purely literary work and his political significance as a father (or godfather) of British radicalism - so closely associated with the Fabian Society, the Shelley-Godwin tradition of "perceptibility" and progress, the polemics of tract and street-corner speaking, the politics of feminism (in *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*) is a difficulty less certainly handled. Here Holroyd's tone sometimes fluctuates towards a neutralizing whimsy, which undermines the real passions at stake. The famous "Bloody Sunday" demonstration of November 1887, which saw the birth of militant British trade unionism, is given this characteristic anti-climax: "Stuart-Glenzie, a Scottish philosophic historian whose special period was 6000 BC, charged the thin red line of Grenadiers with his raised umbrella as they were fixing bayonets."

But most challenging of all is Shaw's own autobiographic creation, the public Meph-



istophiles and "Irish paradoxer" G.B.S., armed *cap à pied* (like Hamlet's father's ghost - for the implications are Oedipal) with his unearthly dialectical wit and inhuman optimism, what Yeats called the "sewing-machine, that clicked and shone".

And here Holroyd is at his finest. If he does not make us like Shaw, he makes us understand him. For the unifying theme of this opening volume is a superb psychological study of Shaw's frantic efforts to recreate himself out of a bereft Dublin childhood. Growing up out of loveless *ménages à trois* - a drunken father, a chilly mother ("lavishing her full indifference on him"), an interloping Svengali-like music teacher - Shaw embarked on an astonishing career of 15 years plundering in London. Holroyd dramatizes each of these affairs (some "platonic", some "Sunday afternoon" and two very definitely and exhaustively physical) with his special mixture of mockery and tenderness. Alice Lockett, Jenny Patterson (an unmarried widow), Edith Nesbit, Annie Besant, Florence Farr, Janet Achurch, May Morris, and several other *jeunes Fabiennes en fleur*, are alternately pursued and fled from. But each, as Holroyd shows, is carefully fed into his early writings, and helps to form the oblique, Shawian persona.

Holroyd writes in a central passage: "In his relationships with women Shaw was seeking a second childhood in which he could receive all the attention and happiness he had been denied by his mother. But since it was impossible for him literally to achieve this, he shifted his desires into his literary life. Sexual excitement produced in him an ejaculation of words from which letters were conceived, novels and plays born."

The wonderfully subtle and persuasive working out of this interpretation lies at the heart of *The Search for Love*. Despite all the difficulties and dangers, it is formidably well done. With the "terrible adventure" of marriage and respectability, Shaw-GBS is committed to his professional career; and Michael Holroyd is launched upon a masterpiece.

Enemy of the people?

Philip Howard

THE TRIAL OF
SOCRATES
By L. F. Stone
Cape, £12.95

It is not a nuclear explosion of a new notion that "Socrates" was, as presented by Plato and Xenophon, was an enemy of the open society. But the notion has never been stated as rudely as in this lively book by a distinguished amateur classicist and philosopher. "Izzy" Stone, the radical Washington journalist of his one-man bandwagon, *J.F. Stone's Weekly*, taught himself Greek at the age of 70 and with failing eyesight in order to answer this question: how come that Athens, the mother of democracy and free speech, put to death the father of philosophy and forerunner of Christ merely for his teaching? Maybe the question needed the broad sweep of a political journalist, while the philosophers went off after the enchanting complexities of the logic, and the ancient historians were not really interested in a minor episode from a time of Athens's decline not satisfactorily recorded in their sources.

Stone argues with characteristic vim that Socrates had to go because he was a virulently anti-democratic, pro-Spartan, totalitarian, elitist snob, whose disciples and chums had already led two bloody oligarchic coups against

the democracy, and now threatened a third. Stone is rich with modern echoes and parallels, from the death squads of Argentina to the dirty jokes of Old Comedy and Minsky's. The guardians of Plato's ideal republic would be not only an occupying army but the secret police of a junta. For a change, Xanthippe emerges as a long-suffering minor heroine, bringing up a family with no help or affection from her layabout, garrulous, egotistic, dogmatic, reactionary husband. The great man had jackboots of clay.

The book falls into two halves. In the first Stone examines the mutually opposed ideologies of Socrates and Athens from the Platonic dialogues and other sources, and puts the obvious pointed questions that the interlocutors are too dim or too respectful to put to Socrates. He does often talk charming but pernicious rubbish. In the second

part Stone reconstructs and analyses the trial and sentence. His conclusion is that, of course, the condemnation of Socrates was a blot on the record of our founding democracy. But that the old right-wing ideologue asked for it, and indeed wanted martyrdom.

There are some irritating multiple repetitions: the battered ears of the Yuppie Black Shirts again; the lack of a distinction between artists and craftsmen in ancient Athens; the Pythagorean pun that the body (*soma*) is the tomb (*sema*) of the soul. Not all of Stone's authorities are equally authoritative. The Loeb's and encyclopaedias are old and sometimes dodgy, and *Liddell & Scott* cannot be described as the court of final judgement in the extreme acceptance of those words, at least not until its long overdue revision by Peter Clare is completed. But this is a compellingly argued, vivid, and angry generalist book, shouting for what is best in the democratic traditions of Athens and the Western world and is still continually under threat. What we need now, for laughs, is an apology for the anti-democratic old ideologue by some *mal-pensant* journalist of the New Right.

to arrive. He discovers China in the stops between journeys that are a catalogue of discomfort and deprivation, especially on the Iron Rooster, the "cheapskate express" from Lanzhou to Urumchi; honeymoon couples making all-night melon-eating noises in the bunk above, sleeping car attendants who whip the sheets from his slumbering body at 4.30 am like a conjuror removing the cloth from a laid table, inedible dining-car food and unspeakable toilets.

He develops a fascination with Chinese toilets, especially when he sees the contents of a public urinal being taken away in plastic drums. "For medicine," he is told. Will Mr Fang report that the foreign devil is obsessed with urine?

The fall of the Gang of Four has done nothing to improve the sanitation, but Mr Theroux finds much else in China improved since he last visited it in 1980. "When it looked bleak and exhausted, all baggy suits and unconvincing slogans." The peasants are better off, the clothes are brighter, and women are wearing what he describes as that most unnecessary of garments in China, the brassiere.

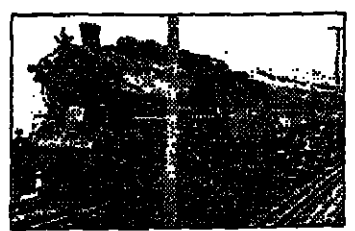
Yet his favourite part of the whole country is the part where there are no railways at all. "I thought I liked railways until I saw Tibet, and then I realized that I liked wilderness much more."

We must hope that this most entertaining traveller has not been put off trains for good; for sheer awfulness, he still has to chronicle the 8.14 from Woking to Waterloo.

China with fangs

Alan Hamilton

RIDING THE IRON
ROOSTER
By Paul Theroux
Hamish Hamilton, £14.95



Huffing and puffing after Mao

Theroux generally finds the people he meets open and ashamed about the 10 horrific years of the Cultural Revolution, until one of his interviewees is bland and non-committal about it. Mr Fang leaps in: "It is important to know the truth about the Cultural Revolution. Foreigners must be told. We must face the facts."

Mr Theroux does not entirely hold to the Stevenson dictum that it is better to travel hopefully than

Sharing a long train journey with Paul Theroux would be at best a mixed blessing. He appears to huddle in a corner keeping himself to himself, pretending as far as possible not to be there at all; but the furtive notes he is constantly scribbling tend towards the deeply uncomplimentary about his fellow passengers.

Having ridden an eternity of rails for *The Great Railway Bazaar* and *The Old Patagonian Express*, Mr Theroux has arrived at the conclusion that fellow passengers are, on the whole, an unpleasant breed. But they are marvellous grist to the mill of his travel writing, which he considers a minor form of autobiography. "It is always difficult for a writer to make virtuous people interesting. But even though that's true, it is also true that it is fairly easy to make vicious people memorable, and sometimes fascinating."

On his latest epic railway journey, to the uttermost corners of China, he is holed up with some fascinatingly awful companions, especially in the early stages when he joins a group tour of assortedly hideous Britons, Americans, and Australians: Miss Wilkie from Morningside, Kicker with the plate in his head, Cyril and Bug Winkle, and the ghastly Witzkricks. None, however, is as bad as Mr Fang, the minder forcibly attached to the author by a suspicious Chinese rail administration: Mr Theroux insists that they pass their many joint miles in separate compartments.

Mr Fang does, however, redeem himself on one occasion. Mr

Mortar board and boiler suit

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

NICE WORK

By David Lodge
Secker & Warburg, £10.95

SUGAR AND RUM

By Barry Unsworth
Hamish Hamilton, £11.95

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

By Gilbert Adair
Heinemann, £10.95

THE BEGINNING OF SPRING

By Penelope Fitzgerald
Heinemann, £10.95

Nice Work is *Hard Times* seen through the self-conscious. David Lodge, who lives and teaches in Birmingham, has taken the Victorian social novel and put it through his own condition and modern experience. With admirable research he has pursued contemporary Gradgrinds through their businesses and offices, and he has come up with a tough comic hero, Vic Wilcox, who is a hard engineering executive with a soft spot for Robyn Peurose, a post-Structuralist feminist, whose lectures on the 19th-century novel give Lodge every opportunity to deride Derrida and send up Saussure and generally puncture the semiotic blather that has suffocated English departments at universities for the past 10 years.

As a comedy of society and class misunderstandings, Lodge has never observed more sharply. His only mistake in the best redbrick and foundry novel of this decade is a sop thrown to his professional studies. Introducing Robyn to the reader, he introduces himself as the author. He says that his character does not believe in "character" however he may describe her. Of course, he does describe her and seems to lose himself in her person, telling the story of an unlikely romance between an odd couple, with a happy ending that Lodge appears to accept as straightforwardly as Dickens used to. Robyn receives a legacy and gives it to Vic to start up his own business. It is improbable and coincidental, but written with conviction. Nice Work is very nice work, indeed, as long as it forgets to comment on its niceties.

Sugar and Rum deals with Liverpool and its slaving past seen through the memories of Clive Benson as he drinks and talks his way about the war zone of the ruins of the city. Benson will never finish his book on the slave trade, so he sets himself up as a literary consultant with a group of "Fictioneers". Their derisory contributions to novel form give Benson the chance to comment on the fantasies of English history.

Benson also has a delicate sense of correspondence, a belief that all connects and somewhere there is a sign that will solve his quests and wanderings. A suicide falls off a roof; he meets an old soldier he has known on the Anzio beach-head and the effete officer who once commanded him. The Toxteth riots give him a vision of a slaves' revolt, although the looters wear Mickey Mouse and Thatcher masks to disguise their faces. A visit to the officer's country home shows him a pageant of King Athelstan's great victory over the Vikings and of the unity of England. Ancient, recent, and modern time are visited in Benson's search for his identity and the significance of his city. There is a violent resolution to this obsessive and provocative novel that examines the absences and abysses beneath the violence of urban life and offers a quixotic

and personal answer. The Holy Innocents is a first novel of exquisite contrivance and perverse purity. Gilbert Adair sets his young trio, a French brother and sister and American friend, among the rats of the Cinéma-thèque, the obsessive young watchers of old movies. For them the images on the screen now screen the pictures of the real world. The head of the Cinéma-thèque is dismissed, the building closed, the rats charge the police. *The Battleship Potemkin* begins to be re-enacted. The trio return to a deserted flat in Paris to play film games and make film love. They perform their screen fantasies with their bodies. They chant the usual lines at each other: "Rosebud... Round up the usual suspects!... Well, nobody's perfect."

Their bizarre sexual play is interrupted by a paving-stone through the window. The May riots of 1968 have begun. Revolution overtakes dreams of the cinema. Wall graffiti are the subtitles of change. The director shouts, "Action", the trio and students battle with the thugs of the state. Taking up a posture with a red flag on the railings, the friend is shot. This montage novel of film sequences has its climax in a *tableau* by Pudovkin. The brother and sister return to the mania of the Cinéma-thèque. End, credits roll. The Holy Innocents is an art documentary of a state of mind, a libido in revolt at a period in Paris that none who were there have ever escaped in their insight and dreams.

The Beginning of Spring is an evocation of the Russia of Tolstoy and Chekhov in the British mode. Penelope Fitzgerald takes as her hero an expatriate English printer in Moscow, a man of limited sensibility with a wayward wife, who deserts him and her children. His lack of imagination keeps them going, while emotional and political currents swirl about them. Is he unkind? His wife's admirer answers the question. The husband fails to grasp what is beyond sense or reason. It is the art of Penelope Fitzgerald to suggest that hidden sense without stressing it. She is the mistress of the hint of the sublime.

SATURDAY

Victoria Glendinning reviews Ian Hamilton's shadowy biography of J.D. Salinger

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Irene Moore, TLS February 12 1988

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★ **BAG LADY:** Souths Cusack in Frank McGuinness's Edinburgh award winning. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-748 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8-9pm, Sun 2-5pm, Tues-Sat 7-9pm.

★ **BLOOD BROTHERS:** Why Russell's sentimental musical is so popular is explained by the English class system. Kiku Doe as their mother. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-567 1115). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.45pm, mats Thurs 3-6pm, and Sat 4-7pm, 25.50-215.50.

★ **EXCLUSIVE YARNS:** Soap opera, set in a wool shop, gets in a tangle with real life: new comedy with Pam Ferris. Comedy Theatre, Penton Street, W1 (01-430 2578). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10.45pm, mats Fri and Sat 5.30-7.45pm, 24-214.50.

★ **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE:** Undergirded Shylock by Anthony Siner in Bill Alexander's acclaimed production. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre EC2 (01-338 8891). Tube: Moorgate. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Tues 7.30pm, mat 2pm, 25-215.

★ **STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE:** Nostalgia musical: back to the Sixties with the Fabulous Singletones sporting beehive hair-dos, who sing like it like it. Piccadilly Theatre, Denman St, W1 (01-867 1118). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10.45pm, mats Fri and Sat 5.30-7.45pm, 24-214.50.

★ **SOUTH PACIFIC:** Gemma Craven as Emile Beacourt in magnificent staged revival. Price of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-338 5989). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm, 25.50-220.

★ **THE TAINTED HONEY OF HOMICIDAL BEES:** Edinburgh Fringe play given two awards, one for silliest title, the other for quality. Bizarre who admit about evil killer bees. Elephant Theatre, Oxford Arms, 285 Camden High Street, NW1 (01-482 4857). Tube: Camden Town. Tues-Sat 7.30-9pm, 25.50.

★ **TEACHERS:** John Godber's end-of-year play within a play: funny with sad bits. Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street WC2 (01-338 3334). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8-11pm, Early performances on Fri and Sat 6.30-8.30pm, 25.50-211.50.

★ **JOHN HOLLAND:** (a) A follower of Cade in *Henry VI Part Two*, he believes that he is a great warrior, but is in fact a coward. (b) The music which who is in love with the clown in *The Winter's Tale*; she sings a catch with Anticlimax and Dorcas.

★ **SIMON CATLING:** (a) Leader of the three musicians who perform an interlude between Acts IV and V of *Richard and Julia*. As well as playing "Heart's Ease", they debate with the clown Peter the meaning of the phrase "Music with her silver sound". Catling puts forward the not very startling view that it is because of music's sweetness.

★ **PETO:** (b) One of Falstaff's cronies in *Henry IV Part One* and *Two*. He speaks only half a dozen lines, all of singular banality. If you are an actor selected to play only half a dozen lines after night, you are in the wrong profession, and should consider becoming a traffic warden.

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★ **SIMON CATLING:** (a) Leader of the three musicians who perform an interlude between Acts IV and V of *Richard and Julia*. As well as playing "Heart's Ease", they debate with the clown Peter the meaning of the phrase "Music with her silver sound". Catling puts forward the not very startling view that it is because of music's sweetness.

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★ **TITUS ANDRONICUS:** Award-winning performance by Brian Cox at the heart of this meaty tragedy. The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-338 8891). Tube: Moorgate/Barbican. Tonight 7.30pm, 210.

★ **ZIEGFELD:** Topoi stars in the £3 million show, closing Oct 1. London Palladium, 8 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.45-5.30pm, 23.25-221.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ And Then There Were None Strand Theatre (01-338 2650). ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-430 0072, cc 01-404 4073). ★ Follies: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5359). ★ 42nd Street: Drury Lane Theatre (01-338 8108/9). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-338 6111). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/4). ★ The Miserables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0909). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-338 1443). ★ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-339 2244). ★ Run For Your Life: Criterion Theatre (01-330 3210). ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-829 8665).

★ **OUT OF TOWN**

★ **BATH:** ★ Dry Rot: Brian Rix returns to the stage to drop his trousers in this old Whitehall farce. Theatre Royal, Sawclough, Bath (0225 65065). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, 27-135.

★ **LEICESTER:** ★ Julius Caesar: First half of a two play project directed by John Dexter. Crecia (aka Antigone) follows later. Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate (01-533 00021). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 24-28.50.

★ **NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE:** ★ A Tale of Two Cities: Cambridge Theatre Co. joins forces with The Company for a musical adaptation of the novel. Revolving: with Christian Burgum and Pauline Black. Theatre, Westgate Street (091 232 0899). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, 24-27.50.

★ **FILMS**

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **SABOTAGE:** (U) One of the most brilliant of the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel, with Stéphane Audran as a famous Parisian who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45.

★ **BROADBENT NEWS (15):** Sick drama about network TV journalism from James L. Brooks (*Terms of Endearment*) with William Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems (132 min).

★ **DARK EYES (15):** Soviet director Nikita Mikhalkov's superb adaptation of Chekhov. Filmed in Italy starring Marcello Mastroianni, with Silvana Mangano and Martine Keller (117 min). Curzon Mayfair (01-439 3737). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **DROWNING BY NUMBERS (18):** Three generations of women, all called Cissie Colpitts, become of professional and romantic problems (132 min).

★ **COMING TO AMERICA (15):** Eddie Murphy as a pampered foreign prince who comes to America to select his own bride. A botched comedy vehicle with a touch of sweetness, directed by John Landis. (116 min). Cannon Piccadilly (01-370 2636). Progs 2.15, 6.20, 9.15.

★ **CANNON OFFER (01-338 0310):** Progs 2.10, 5.15, 8.20, 10.30, 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30.

★ **SHAG (15):** Frivolous film, named after an American dance craze, with Bridget Fonda, Phoebe Cates, Page Hemmell and a youthful cast as boys and girls entering a dance contest in the 1960s (100 min). Curzon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Prog 9.40.

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Enlightening conductor

This evening at the Barbican Centre Michael Tilson Thomas gives his first concert as principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, following in the footsteps of Hans Richter, Nikisch, Pierre Monteux and André Previn. That this is an enterprising and imaginative appointment is suggested by tonight's programme. The main work is Mahler's Symphony No 9, but it opens with a Fanfare by Oliver Knussen and includes Clara's *Scena* from Act 1 of Robin Holloway's opera *Clara* with the soprano Anna Steiger. Tilson Thomas, who was born in Los Angeles in 1944, has long shown skill in building unusual yet harmonious programmes. His breadth of musical and other artistic and intellectual interests should make future LSO concerts exceptionally rewarding, and his repertoire stretches from Pécini and Jostin to Boulez and Stockhausen. Besides having musicality and intelligence, Tilson Thomas is an articulate speaker with an outward-going personality and striking platform manner. He has a particular interest in music theatre, his family, the Tomashevskys, having been prominent in Yiddish theatre. He is also enthusiastic about the use of electronic resources in musical performance. Tilson Thomas can be expected to take the LSO a long way into the 1990s, and to do it now. Barbican Centre, London (01-638 8891), tonight, 7.45-9.45pm, £18-50. Max Harrison



Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-338 6148). Progs 2.20, 5.10, 8.00.

★ **COMING TO AMERICA (15):** Eddie Murphy as a pampered foreign prince who comes to America to select his own bride. A botched comedy vehicle with a touch of sweetness, directed by John Landis. (116 min). Cannon Piccadilly (01-370 2636). Progs 2.15, 6.20, 9.15.

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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1416.5 (+8.7)	US dollar 1.6785 (-0.0200)
FT-SE 100 1785.1 (+8.8)	W German mark 3.1468 (+0.0117)
USM (Datastream) 159.32 (+0.70)	Trade-weighted 75.4 (-0.2)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Woolworth in surge to £70.3m

Woolworth Holdings unveiled a dramatic 159 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £70.3 million.

Before an exceptional item, profits of £52.7 million showed a 94 per cent increase. Sales in the six months topped £1 billion for the first time.

Do-it-yourself enthusiasts spent £36.5 million in the group's B&Q stores while the property division contributed £31.9 million.

Group turnover rose from £892 million to £1.17 billion. The interim dividend increased 10 per cent to 3.3p.

The Office of Fair Trading will investigate Black and Decker's trading practices, after a B&Q (Retail) complaint about the holding back of power tool supplies over the price charged by the retailer.

Comment, page 27

Raine extends

Raine, the house building group, will extend its share swap offer for Ruberoid after gaining acceptances of 30.1 per cent for its cash terms which closed yesterday. This is despite a higher offer from the Tarmac group.

Raine believes the Office of Fair Trading is likely to recommend a Monopolies Commission investigation into the Tarmac/Ruberoid deal, which would then lapse.

Coloroll buys

Coloroll, the home furnishings group, is paying nearly £15 million for William Barrett group, upholstered furniture manufacturers.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2090.68 (+7.64)
Dow Jones	2780.57 (+11.51)
Nikkei Average	2481.57 (+7.99)
Amsterdam Gen	268.2 (+0.9)
Frankfurt	1548.4 (+18.9)
Commerzbank	1355.2 (+14.9)
Brussels	5036.6 (+27.9)
Paris CAC	369.0 (+2.0)
Zurich S&K Gen	468.0 (+2.6)
London:	
FT-All Share	914.48 (+3.85)
FT-100	958.1 (+4.70)
FT Gold Mines	176.8 (+0.7)
FT Fixed Interest	95.49 (-0.04)
FT Govt Securities	88.90 (+0.11)
Recent issues	Page 28
Closing prices	Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RIBS:	
Raceal	301p (+11p)
PHM	385p (+26p)
Dalgety	315p (+13p)
Woolworth	246p (+28p)
Travis & Arnold	505p (+13p)
Standard Chartered	501p (+24p)
ECC	452p (+15p)
Enterprise	641p (+17p)
ASACQ	585p (+22p)
Sovereign	171p (+15p)
FAI	187p (+10p)
Mountbatten	144p (+12p)
Woolworth Rink	422p (+10p)
Candover	380p (+20p)
GH Scholes	490p (+10p)

FALLS:	
Pearson	678p (-25p)
Irish Distillers	419p (-17p)
General Accident	874p (-13p)
British Aerospace	450p (-11p)
Meyer Int'l	369p (-10p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	18579

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	12%
3-month interbank:	12%-12.5%
3-month eligible bills:	11.25%-11.5%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate:	10%
Federal Funds:	8 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.16-7.19%
30-year bonds:	10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6785	£ \$1.6750
£ DM1.468	£ DM1.6780
£ Sfr2.6514	£ Sfr1.5880
£ ¥170.45	£ ¥166.35
£ ¥124.32	£ ¥124.32
£ ¥124.32	£ ¥124.32
£ ¥124.32	£ ¥124.32
£ ¥124.32	£ ¥124.32
£ ¥124.32	£ ¥124.32

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$421.90 pm \$421.50	
close \$421.50-422.00 (\$251.50-252.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$422.10-422.80	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct.)	pm \$14.25bbl (\$13.57)
Dated latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

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● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Lasmo to sell 29% stake in Enterprise

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Lasmo, the independent oil company which 24 hours ago was under takeover threat from British Gas, has put on sale the goose that has laid its golden eggs — its 29 per cent holding in Enterprise Oil — in a move which could make it bid-proof.

The stake, which cost Lasmo about £140 million in an offer for £600 million.

The announcement, made as Lasmo revealed better-than-expected half-year profits, means that British Gas is effectively barred from making a full bid for the oil explorer until after it has sold its Enterprise stake.

There is nothing to prevent British Gas from buying the stake and then moving in with a full bid for the financially restructured Lasmo — the proceeds from the sale will give Lasmo cash in the bank for the first time.

British Gas could follow through with a bid for Enterprise.

British Gas would make no official comment yesterday, but two out of its past three corporate moves have been so dogged by problems — its acquisition of Canada's Bow Valley had to be fully restructured and its bid for New Zealand's Petrocorp collapsed — that there is speculation that changes at senior management level and among its City advisers are inevitable.

The City also sees its recent acquisition of the oil assets of Acre Oil as an expensive move.

Any bid it now made for Lasmo or Enterprise would have to be considerably higher than before the Enterprise stake was put on sale. The sale will change Lasmo's balance sheet so dramatically that its shares will inevitably head upwards, and Enterprise itself has major shareholders, such as ICI, who would resist a full bid from British Gas.

British Gas's tactic of mounting a dawn raid on Lasmo on Tuesday ended with it holding only 1.14 per cent of its target and sending clear signals to the market that it has ambitions to acquire Lasmo and the oil and gas assets which the Government took from it to form Enterprise Oil.

Mr Chris Greentree, Lasmo's chief executive, announced after-tax profits of £14 million for the first half of this year, up 37 per cent on the previous first half despite the fall in world oil prices.

The pre-tax profit was, however, down from £20.2 million to £10.9 million, but the figures also show that £12.1 million of operating profit came from dividend payments on Enterprise shares. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2.5p.

The company said its tax-efficient position should not be changed by the sale of its Enterprise holding. Mr Greentree said cash raised by the sale will be used to develop its exploration and production portfolio. He said: "We won't be going on a spending spree, but there are always deals we are looking at."

Already 20 companies have expressed an interest in buying the stake, with Repsol, the Spanish state oil company which has been looking to acquire North Sea holdings, among the most interested.

Lasmo said that it has been considering selling the holding for some time.

Although it represented a large part of its income it had become so large that it felt it wrong to have such a big proportion of its assets in a company over which it had no control.

Standard shares rise on news of £303m cash call

By Our City Staff

Standard Chartered has launched its promised rights issue, intended to rebuild the shattered capital base and allow the bank to develop its United Kingdom and overseas businesses.

The bank is raising £303 million through an issue of 77.8 million shares on the basis of one new share at 400p for every two held. The share price rose from 478p to 500p on the long-awaited announcement. The issue is underwritten by Schroders.

Only one of the three White Squires, who control 37.5 per cent of the Standard Chartered capital, has agreed to subscribe for the new issue. Bell Group International, which owns 14.9 per cent, will take up its rights, but the plans of the other two big shareholders are unclear.

Sir YK Pao, the Hong Kong businessman, and his associates, who own a further 14.9 per cent shareholding, have indicated that they will vote in favour of the rights issue, but "they do not presently intend to subscribe the new shares to which they will be entitled," Standard Chartered said.

The intentions of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the Singapore businessman, have not been made known, but it is thought unlikely that he will subscribe.

Mr Rodney Galpin, Standard Chartered's chairman and a former director of the Bank of England, said: "We have no idea what he is going to do. We didn't approach him beforehand. We did approach the other two, who as 14.9 per cent shareholders are clearly very important to us."

Sir Peter Graham, Standard Chartered's outgoing chairman, denied suggestions that the shareholders had effectively been given an ultimatum to support the rights issue or have their shares placed with institutions which would be supportive.

The final dividend is maintained at 22.5p, an effective increase of just over 1p per share. New shares will not rank for the unchanged 12.5p dividend already declared.

Seamen's strike cost P&O £25m

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

P&O estimates the total cost of the prolonged strike at P&O European Ferries at £25 million, all but £5 million being incurred in the first half of 1988. But the company said its freight operations at Dover had fully recovered by August and it carried 1.1 million ferry passengers from Dover in August, only slightly down on the 1987 figure of 1.3 million.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, the chairman, said the ferry business should now have a good run before the Channel Tunnel opens.

After deducting the £20 million strike cost as an exceptional item, pre-tax profits for the first six months rose 5 per cent from £101.1 million to £111.7 million. Without the strike cost, they would have risen by 30 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from 17.2p to 18.1p (21.6p before exceptional items). The half year dividend is up a sixth from 9p to 10.5p, though the company said that last year's full year dividend of 22p may not be raised by the same percentage. P&O deferred shares shed 2p to 334p.

Earnings do not include profits of £36 million from sales of properties made at £13 million above their balance sheet values.

Sir Jeffrey said Bovis Homes made an outstanding contribution, helping to boost the construction division's operating profit by half to £50 million.

● Ocean Transport & Trading, made pre-tax profits of £17.4 million (£17.3 million), on a turnover of £475.9 million to £498.8 million. The interim dividend rises from 3.34p to 3.68p a share.

Tempos, page 26

Prudential builds up to £144.4m

By Michael Tate

Pre-tax profits at the mighty Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest insurance group, climbed by £27.4 million to £144.4 million in the first half of 1988, lifting earnings per share from 4.4p to 5.4p and encouraging the board to pay an interim dividend of 2.7p a share against 2.4p.

The fast-expanding estate agency network, Prudential Property Services, contributed £5.6 million more than for the whole of last year when it made only £400,000 in the first half.

Much of the growth came from a substantial improvement in the general insurance business, where profits almost trebled from £14.8 million to £40.9 million. Mr Brian Corby, the chief executive, reported improvements in most areas, but particularly in Britain where the absence of any significantly bad weather, and a more stringent underwriting policy, produced a £600,000 underwriting profit against a £15.6 million loss.

Long-term business is buoyant, said Mr Corby, with worldwide premium income up 24 per cent to £1.88 billion. Profits increased by £4.9 million to £86.0 million.

The international division contributed almost £1 billion to total long-term revenue premiums, with £683 million arising from Jackson National Life in the US. JNL's total pre-tax profit, including investment income on shareholders' funds, was £13.6 million against £8.9 million.

Canadian underwriting results deteriorated after some big claims and bad weather. Trading profits fell from £3.1 million to £1.8 million.

Tempos, page 26



Ready to digest further acquisitions: Sir Hector Laing, after announcing results yesterday

United Biscuits ahead 16% to beat forecasts by £1m

By Carol Ferguson

A strong performance from snacks and biscuits, and a first contribution from Ross Young's, pushed United Biscuits' interim pre-tax profits up 16 per cent to £68.6 million. This was about £1 million ahead of analysts' expectations, and the shares advanced 10p to 268p on the news.

Sir Hector Laing, UB's chairman, said that since the acquisition of Ross Young's in April, significant progress had been made in integrating the business with the existing UB frozen foods division. "This has enabled us to reach a very strong number two position in the frozen food market, and to become a major presence in the rapidly expanding chilled sector," he said.

He said that both businesses had been performing extremely well this year, well ahead of his expectations, and ahead of last year.

The company is paying an interim dividend of 4.5p, up 13 per cent.

In the UB Brands division, which contributed 37 per cent of profits, the group concentrated its effort on its fast-selling major brands such as Penguin, where volumes increased by 10 per cent, and Chocolate Hob-nobs. UB estimates it has 48 per cent of the biscuit market.

KP branded products such as Hula Hoops, Skips and The Real McCoy's saw volumes increase by 23 per cent against last year. KP nuts and crisps also enjoyed volume increases.

The loss-making Pizzaland restaurant chain is recovering strongly after the installation of new management. Losses were down by £500,000 at the trading level.

In the US, Keebler sales and profits rose 16 per cent in dollar terms.

Sir Hector said that he was still looking for acquisitions.

Tempos, page 26

Output climbs to new peak

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Manufacturing output surged over the summer months, rising well above previous peaks, official figures published yesterday showed.

There was a surprise 2.5 per cent jump in manufacturing output in July, as firms worked to meet strong demand in the economy.

In July, manufacturers produced 7.4 per cent more than in the same month a year earlier, although officials said that the underlying rate of growth for manufacturing was still about 6.5 per cent.

The surge in July output may reflect difficulties in adjusting the data because of changed holiday patterns. Some firms worked through normal summer shutdowns to meet demand.

In the May-July period, output was 2.4 per cent up on the previous three months and 6.7 per cent up on a year earlier. It was also 7 per cent higher than its previous cyclical peak, in 1979, and 2 per cent above the all-time output high, recorded in the third quarter of 1974.

The latest figures — rebased for the first time to 1985 — show that manufacturing has convincingly broken into new territory. They also show that electrical and instrument engineering, including the computer industry, has undergone a 30 per cent output rise since 1979 and has a greater weight in the statistics than mechanical engineering.

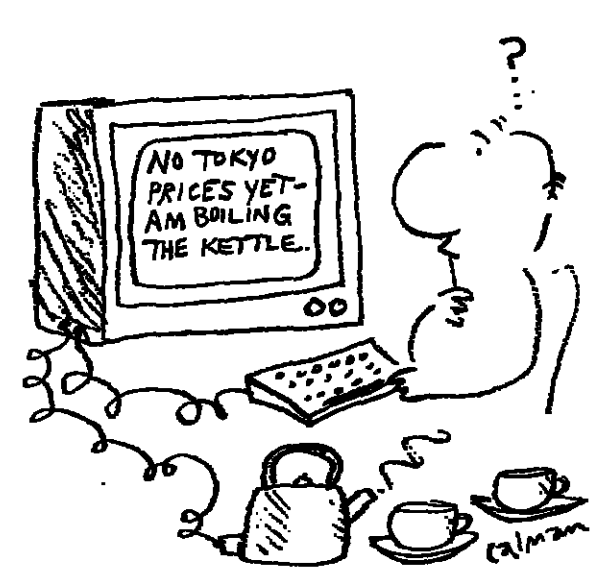
The Piper Alpha disaster had the effect of pushing North Sea oil output down by 12 per cent in July, and reduced industrial production as a whole by about 1.5 per cent. There was still a 0.4 per cent rise in the production industries' output on the month.

US trade gap falls to \$9bn

Financial markets reacted exuberantly yesterday to the lower-than-expected US trade deficit in July, which declined to \$9.53 billion (£5.67 billion) on an adjusted basis from a revised \$13.22 billion in June (Bailey Morris writes).

The dollar rose sharply on the news, as did bond and share prices, but the US currency dropped from its early highs as investors responded to fears of strong central bank intervention.

Market analysts have expected the July deficit — reported for the first time on a cost insurance freight basis (cif) — to be about \$11.3 billion.



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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Acquisitive DC Cook soars 107% to £5.2m

DC Cook Holdings, Britain's biggest Nissan car dealer, which came to the USM last year, announced a 107 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £5.2 million for the year to end-April. Turnover rose 91 per cent to £158.9 million. Earnings per share rose 70 per cent to 13.743p and a final dividend of 1.9p per share was declared, making a total of 2.85p.

The company also announced the acquisition, for £785,000 in cash, of three freehold properties and the stock of Vic Young Garages, a motor trader based in Sunderland and South Shields, Tyne and Wear, currently in receivership. Mr Derek Cook, the chairman, said: "The company has a proven track record in successful acquisitions."

Admiral slips to £562,000

Admiral Computing Group, the software house and computer consultancy, yesterday reported interim pre-tax profits of £562,000, down from £621,000. Turnover was up from £3.9 million to £4.5 million. Earnings per share eased from 3.9p to 3.3p, while the group's directors are recommending an interim dividend of 0.8p a share.

Summer expanding

Summer International, the former Sumrie Clothes which has become a training and education company, is paying £800,000 for ADM, a provider of office and computer training under government programmes and for large companies.

The purchase is by Summer's Cranbrook Training and Recruitment subsidiary and is from Cowan De Groot, the toy business being reconstructed by Mr John Carr, formerly of Windsor Securities. With further property sales worth £160,000 completed, Cowan said it was in a position to embark on an acquisition programme to expand its mainstream businesses.

Lilleshall in £1.1m buy

Lilleshall, the steel stockholder, is paying a total of £1.1 million for Allthread, a distributor of engineering and construction fasteners. The payment consists of £400,000 in cash, and the balance as the repayment of a loan. Allthread lost £22,000 in the six months to June 30, according to management accounts.

Lancaster up on sales surge

The recent surge in British motor sales has been welcomed by Lancaster, the motor trading group floated last year. For the six months to end-June, the company increased pre-tax profits 52 per cent to £2.06 million, on turnover up 32 per cent to £68.7 million. Earnings per share increased to 7.9p from 7.2p previously. The interim dividend is 1.3p per share.

Michael Page ahead 19%

Michael Page Group, the advertising firm recently demerged from the Addison Consultancy Group, lifted pre-tax profits by 19 per cent to £2.5 million, on turnover up 38 per cent to £20.1 million for the six months to June 30. Earnings per share went up 22.4 per cent to 2.62p. The interim dividend was 0.5p.

TEMPUS

Pru's advance fails to impress



P&O still steaming ahead: Jeffrey Sterling, the chairman

When insurance companies are making money out of insuring things, you can bet the business is pretty near the top of its cycle. Underwriting is generally recognized as the industry's loss leader, and for profits the Prudential Corporation and its rivals have relied on their skilful husbandry of the premiums.

The Prudential made a £600,000 profit on underwriting risks in Britain in the first half to June 30, compared with a £15.6 million loss a year ago. For once there were no serious winter storms or blizzards to damage the result, a calm that coincided with the management's decision to be a lot more circumspect in the risks it was prepared to underwrite, reflected in the mere 3.4 per cent growth in premiums.

General insurance trading produced profits of £40.9 million, almost three times the £14.8 million recorded in the first half of 1987. Long-term business, benefiting from a doubling of personal pension sales where it is market leader, and a substantial spin-off in mortgage-related endowment contracts from its estate agency network, produced a £4.9 million increase in trading profits at £86 million.

None of which excited the market. Premium growth was on the whole disappointing (with the exception of the US, where Jackson National Life income almost doubled), margins remain low, the Prudential Holborn investment arm is clearly not performing as well as it might, and the property services division, now boasting Britain's biggest estate agency chain with 778 outlets, looks as if it is still failing to cover its costs.

Prudential Property handled 45,000 house sales during the six-month period, and lifted profits from just £400,000 last time to £5.6 million, and may do a little better in the second half as it

benefits from the pre-August house-buying boom. But it needs to do better if it is to justify the decision to buy its way into the estate agency business rather than tie itself in.

Meanwhile the spending, on training, computerization and more acquisitions, continues.

Total pre-tax profits for the half year are £27.4 million higher than before at £144.4 million, but it is difficult to gauge what this growth owes to realized capital gains, now rolled into the global figure. Analysts were shaving a few millions off their predictions for the year yesterday.

It should not damage the share price. The one pleasant surprise was the 18 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 2.7p, adding to the Pru's not inconsiderable yield attractions, and limiting the downside in the shares.

United Biscuits

"O'Boisies is it" — or so says Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits. O'Boisies, a crisp-style potato snack, will, Sir Hector believes, take the American market by storm and give United Biscuits the

sort of market share it craves in the US.

He is anticipating that O'Boisies will capture a minimum 6 per cent share of the salted snacks market worth \$250 million (£149 million) in US sales. At margins of more than 5 per cent, the contribution to profits could be about £10 million. In the context of forecast profits this year of £165 million, this is still big potatoes for a single brand.

As UB demonstrated in Britain with Hob-nobs, if the product is right, it can make spectacular inroads into the market. Despite a biscuit market which has been static for 20 years, Hob-nobs had sales of £44 million last year, and the higher profit margin on biscuits of nearer 10 per cent implies a profit contribution of £4.4 million, before launch costs.

It is successes like these which will ensure the steady progress of a group which is often regarded as too staid, too cautious and too reliant on improving efficiencies — a process which analysts worry will soon come to an end.

Yet when the group does do something adventurous, like buying Ross-Young's from

Imperial, the market reaction is hostile. But as a result of this acquisition, UB has a 17.5 per cent share in the frozen food sector, making it the second biggest after Bird's Eye. In the first half, Ross-Young's trading profit is up 53 per cent on a like-for-like basis, and that is before any of the benefits of integration come through.

Despite its sober image, UB's shareholders have done well over the years. With all dividends reinvested, an investment in UB shares 20 years ago would have given an annual year-on-year rate of return of 18 per cent on average, outpacing both the FT All-Share index, and the food manufacturing sector. And far from slowing, the pace has been accelerating. Over the past five years the return has been 22 per cent, over the past four years 25 per cent.

In current markets, the prospective multiple of 10.8 looks fair, while the prospective yield of 6.2 per cent is positively alluring. A share to keep for the long term.

P&O

Sir Jeffrey Sterling must bitterly regret his purchase of European Ferries, whatever its commercial sense — which still looks convincing. The combination of the Zeebrugge disaster and the strike in Dover, over attempts to reform the pre-tunnel cross-Channel ferry business, have sullied P&O's previously bright image with the public. And that has undoubtedly rubbed off on the stock market.

Even the profit P&O has so far made on its 10 per cent stake in Taylor Woodrow, which would more or less pay for the strike, has been seen rather as the prelude to a share-issuing bid.

But P&O is a lot more than Dover. Passenger shipping as a whole produced only an

eighth of 1987 operating profit. And Sir Jeffrey did not get where he is today by ignoring market sensibilities.

Aside from these two negative factors, P&O is still steaming ahead. The construction and housebuilding side boosted its operating profits by 50 per cent in the half year to £50 million. That shows the housing boom, but the worldwide construction business, with £4 billion work under management, is expanding on a relatively safe base.

Services industries, including Felixstowe and road transport, charged ahead by 28 per cent to £43 million in the first half. And the cruise business is strong enough for full year passenger shipping profits to beat last year's £41 million before the £25 million exceptional strike cost.

Freight shipping profits are up 23 per cent to £27.7 million. And nearly a fifth of operating profits come from high quality investment property income. Property realizations also point to a useful full year rise in net assets compared with the 1987 balance sheet figure of 340p per share.

Leading analyst, Mr Richard Hannah, of Phillips & Drew, quickly upgraded his full year forecast from £315 million to £325 million pre-tax, after exceptional results. Even allowing some continuing loss of summer bookings on the ferries, P&O should do at least as well as that, suggesting 1988 earnings of about 55p per share. On that basis, the shares would sell at less than 10 times earnings with a yield of nearly 7.5 per cent.

Shipping improvements and the construction load should help boost 1989 profits to about £385 million.

That leaves the shares looking cheap, unless Sir Jeffrey launches an early share bid for Taylor Woodrow or something of similar size. He is unlikely to do that.

Laing tops forecasts with leap to £24.7m

By Martin Waller

The housing boom in the South-east boosted pre-tax profits at John Laing Group, the builder, to a forecast-beating £24.7 million in the six months to end-June, up from £13.2 million last time.

City estimates had ranged between £16 million and £20 million. But the shares advanced just 3p to 289p on the announcement, as the market expressed concern that the housing upturn might not survive higher mortgage rates and the change in tax relief.

Mr Peter Johnson, finance director, said there was no sign of a significant fall-off in sales, and the group's target of 4,000 units this year was still "comfortably achievable."

The group was well spread across the housing market, having sold 255 retirement homes and 191 houses in California in the first half. Total conveyances were almost 1,700, up from 1,170.

Margins had improved dramatically in housing, he added, with the average selling price of £65,000 up more than 20 per cent over the past year. Turnover grew by £105 million to £612 million, with the improvement split about equally between homes, construction and the group's other activities.

Construction improved its margins from the "unacceptable" 1.5 per cent of turnover last time. Actual profits from the division doubled, although this was the result of the timing of major contracts and was not an indication of the full year's trend.

The interim dividend is up 1p to 3p.

Laing netted a one-off gain of £10 million from the sale of a third of its 25 per cent stake in Europistas, the Spanish motorways company.

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Market Crash
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1984
The Miners'
strike
Earnings per Share
12.2p

1981
The Royal
Wedding of HRH
Prince Charles and
Lady Diana Spencer
Earnings per Share
5.3p

1977
The Silver Jubilee
Earnings per Share
2.2p

1973
The Oil Crisis
Earnings per Share
0.5p

1969
The first man on
the moon
Earnings per Share
0.2p *

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LMS

Highlights of the year

	1988 £000	1987 £000
Profit before tax	16,975	16,842
Profit attributable to shareholders	9,548	8,289
Shareholders' funds	231,731	183,494
Earnings per Ordinary share	5.98p	5.55p
Dividends per Ordinary share	3.00p	2.80p

With a major part of the group's holdings strategically located in favoured Central London areas, LMS is exceptionally well placed to take advantage of the extensive growth potential in its mainstream property activities.

Report and Accounts available from the Secretary, (after 20 Sept.) Carlton House, 33 Robert Adam Street, London W1M 5AH.

DRG up 15% to £28m as Bermuda firm builds stake

By John Bell, City Editor

DRG, the paper and packaging group, is taking a relaxed view of the 4.6 per cent share stake built up in it by Pembroke Investments, a shadowy Bermuda concern. "We do not know if this is an aggressive purchase," said Mr Moger Woolley, DRG's chief executive. "But we are monitoring the holding closely."

DRG believes that the Pembroke holding tracks back to Mr Roland Franklin, a former director of Keyser Ullmann, the merchant bank, who is now based in New York. There has been no contact between Mr Franklin and DRG since he built up his holding, largely by means of a purchase from the Kuwait Investment Office.

"DRG has been tipped as a takeover candidate for many years," Mr Woolley said. "We think the best defence is to continue to run the business well."

The interim figures show that DRG is making solid progress, and spending heavily to maintain an efficient cost base. The board has authorized a capital budget of £55 million for the current year, three times the level of depreciation. Yet year-end earnings are expected to be no more than 15 per cent.

Pre-tax profits were up 15 per cent, to £28.3 million. The profits rise was matched by a similar increase in earnings per share to 19.4p, and



Spending for success: Moger Woolley (left) and Barry Stevenson, finance director of DRG

shareholders are also to receive a 15 per cent increase in dividend, to 4.7p per share.

Sir John Milne, the chairman, described the performance in the first half as excellent, with gains spread broadly across the group.

No breakdown was given but Sir John said that United Kingdom stationery performed soundly, with less pressure on costs. The group is planning a substantial promotion of the Sellopat brand name.

In UK packaging, profits

from rigid plastics recovered from massive increases in resin costs, which hit last year's results. The Business Group showed further "significant growth," but tough competition trimmed margins.

The underlying profits earned by overseas subsidiaries rose 28 per cent, which reduced to 23 per cent after currency factors. The overseas commercial envelope business produced higher profits. DRG medical packaging in the US provided the high

spot of the overseas packaging results, Sir John said.

A number of products, such as a microwaveable food container, are making a breakthrough into volume production, and the board has authorized significant new investment to meet demand for the containers. Production reached 10 million units last year and should top 60 million this year. Close on 200 million units looks possible next year.

The group says that sales are being constrained solely by capacity.

LMS stays steady at £16.98m

By Wolfgang Mächan

London Merchant Securities, the property group, reported a small increase in pre-tax profits to £16.98 million (£16.84 million) for the year to end-March. Rental income rose 15 per cent to £17.8 million.

The group has two major London office buildings under construction and has started another development.

Following a reduction in tax and minorities, attributable profits have risen 15 per cent to £9.55 million. The properties were revalued on an open-market basis, which — as a result of the property boom — led to a surplus of £37.7 million and a 26 per cent increase in fully diluted net assets per share to 0.878p.

LMS shares rose 1p to 100p. Fully diluted earnings per share rose from 3.88p to 4.14p. The final dividend is 2.2p per ordinary share, making 3.0p (up 0.2p).

Meyer in £176m Travis bid

By Our City Staff

Meyer International, which runs the Jewson chain of builders' merchants, has launched a hostile £176 million takeover offer for Travis & Arnold, aimed at blocking its agreed merger with Sandell Perkins.

Sandell and Travis on Monday announced agreed share swap terms which valued Travis at 357p per share. The deal had the backing of the

substantial family interests in both companies and would have created one of the largest building materials concerns in Britain.

Meyer has topped those terms by a massive 35 per cent with a 500p per share cash offer.

Travis said yesterday it had no hesitation in rejecting the "unwelcome" offer. Mr Tim Perkins, Sandell's chairman, was equally hostile. "Meyer's move is a mischievous at-

tempt to obstruct the creation of a powerful new group which will prove a major competitor in the building supplies industry."

Mr Oscar DeVillie, Meyer's chairman, revealed that informal approaches to Travis had been made on several occasions, the most recent a month ago. "They always stressed their wish to remain independent. The agreement on Monday clearly indicates that their view has changed," he said.

London Forfaiting up 32%

By Our City Staff

London Forfaiting, the trade finance group which joined the USM in February, increased pre-tax profits by 32 per cent in the first half of the year.

At £10.44 million the profits compare with £7.88 million at the interim stage last year. Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 2.625p per share, comfortably beating

the 2.5p indicated at the time of the flotation.

Trading showed a satisfactory increase in the first half year, but the company said conditions in the middle months of the year became more difficult due to thin summer markets and the rise in world interest rates.

A more cautious approach has been adopted towards expanding the asset portfolio

with the new funds raised at the time of the flotation, which was the largest to date on the USM.

Directors anticipate a satisfactory outcome to the full year. Earnings per share rose from 7.98p to 8.58p while net assets per share increased from 94.5p to 118p.

The shares gained 1p to 161p on the profits news. They were floated at 160p.

Ibstock Johnsen soars to £27m

By Graham Searjeant

Ibstock Johnsen, the brick and forest products group at the centre of persistent takeover rumours, boosted its pre-tax profits by 63 per cent to £27 million in the first half of the year.

The strong increase reflected Ibstock's two acquisitions in forest products as well as the building boom in Britain. Earnings per share were a quarter higher at 9.04p

and the interim dividend is being increased from 1.5p to 2p per share.

The original building products group raised pre-interest profits by 35 per cent to £14.8 million in Britain, though profits in the US were slightly lower in sterling terms at £3.2 million.

Pre-interest profits from forest products jumped from £2.5 million to £8.2 million. This reflects the full takeover of Eucalyptus Paper Mills, giving Ibstock 76 per cent

control of the Caima pulp operations in Portugal.

Ibstock also bought the timber agents Price & Pierce (which made £1.1 million profit for the whole of 1987) for £5.6 million. This has helped boost half-year turnover from £69 million to £170 million.

Balance sheet strength turned a £400,000 net group interest charge in the first half of 1987 into a £1 million credit this year.

The chairman, said that the group's trading performance was still buoyant and that all parts of the enlarged forest products division were doing well.

Takeover speculation increased last month after Mr Peter Woodman, Ibstock's new managing director, resigned. But three weeks ago, the group announced a further £6.3 million acquisition of its own in Portugal.

The shares dropped 4p to 165p.

Plaice for Sir Fred to go skating

Hitherto known as the holiday camp king, Sir Fred Pontin — these days chairman of Pontin's Catering Group, may soon be dubbed the king of Covent Garden. For, when the multi-millionaire cockney celebrates his 82nd birthday next month it will be at a party to launch Fish & Chips at Pontin's, in Henrietta Street, his sixth restaurant in the vicinity of the old vegetable market and his first up-market fish and chip venture there, complete with a champagne bar. Pontin's, founded by Peter Ispani, has been opening a new outlet every three weeks and now has a total of 17 "value for money" restaurants and snack bars in London, with plans to float on the USM next March. "What I did for holidays, I'm now doing for food, so families can afford a nice meal out," Sir Fred says. But that does not mean all its customers have to watch their budget. Comedian Billy Connolly regularly pops in to buy cookies from Pontin's in James Street, and Pontin's Restaurant in The Market, Covent Garden — average spend, £6 a head — is a favourite haunt of Sir Freddie Laker. Labour politicians have also been spotted there, thanks to the connections of Pontin's deputy chairman, Charles Morris, once a member for Manchester, Civil Service minister under Wilson and Callaghan and PPS to the Ritz. "It might not be The Ritz," Sir Fred adds, "but it makes more money."

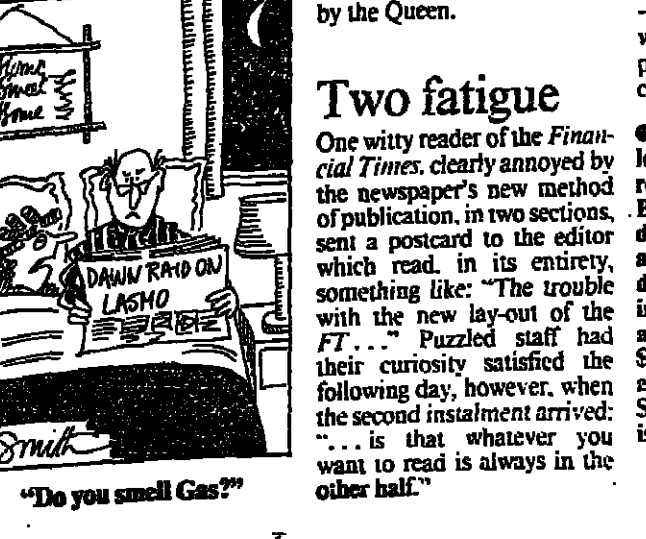
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Smith New Court out

Smith New Court's latest annual report proudly proclaims that "recognition within the financial community of Smith New Court's success in developing global securities trading is a major factor in attracting the very best analysts into the company."

Royal bank

The powers that be at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, owner in this country of McCaughey Dyson Cape Cure, the broker, and Grindlays, the merchant bank, will be concerned with affairs of state today. A new state coach, to be known as the Australian State Coach, and given to the Queen during her tour of Australia in May, makes its first public appearance in



"Do you smell Gas?"

Heavy going

Stephen Forsyth, chairman of Leisure Investments, the snooker club to restaurant group, is determined that too many dinners at Fatsos Pasta Joint — part of a chain which L1 owns — will not scupper his life-long ambition to become an amateur jockey. Confessing to weighing "more than 14 stone," the lowering chairman had his dream revived after acquiring the Surrey racecourse Lingfield Park last month for £7 million. "I wanted to be a jockey as a boy, but the Jockey Club weight rules have proved far too stringent," he says. "But now I can make my own rules." He jests. Now he wants to hold a race at Lingfield, "just for faties." "Only people over 14 stone — and who've never won a race before — will be eligible." Forsyth, hosting a party at Lingfield this week to celebrate its purchase, also let slip that a headline in *The Times* when the Lingfield deal was announced in August — *Fatsos saddles up for Lingfield* — had a personal ring to it. "It was more apt than you could possibly have known," he chuckles.

Two fatigue

One witty reader of the *Financial Times*, clearly annoyed by the newspaper's new method of publication, in two sections, sent a postcard to the editor which read, in its entirety, something like: "The trouble with the new lay-out of the FT..." Puzzled staff had their curiosity satisfied the following day, however, when the second instalment arrived: "...is that whatever you want to read is always in the other half."

Carol Leonard

Croda rises to £15.7m despite US drought

Croda International, the specialty chemicals group, revealed a 10 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits to £15.7 million, despite the impact of the US drought.

Turnover rose 4 per cent to £171 million. The dividend was up 12 per cent to 3.8p net.

Mr Keith Hopkins, Croda's chief executive, said the results had been hit by the weak US dollar and rises in raw materials costs. He said: "We mainly use rape seed oil and tallow, and the drought in the Midwest of the US has had a knock-on effect on the cost of these oils."

Caparo ahead

Caparo Industries, the manufacturer and distributor of industrial products, yesterday reported a three-fold increase in pre-tax profits to £3.8 million on turnover marginally down to £68 million for the six months to June 30.

Fully diluted earnings per share increased from 0.83p to 2.64p. The interim dividend was 0.85p.

Spandex soars

Spandex, the sign-making equipment supplier, has turned in pre-tax profits of £1.83 million for the six months to end-June, up 50 per cent. Turnover rose from £10.5 million to £13.7 million.

An interim dividend of 1.5p was declared.

GKN to sell

GKN, the automotive to industrial services group, is selling GKN Aftermarket Parts, its US subsidiary, to Echlin, an American replacement parts rival, for \$50 million (£29.4 million) cash.

Johnston leap

Johnston Press, the weekly newspaper publisher which came to the market in April, reported profits before tax up a third to £2.03 million in its first half to end-June. A dividend of 1p was declared.

21% advance

Great Southern Group, the funeral director, raised profits 21 per cent to £1.71 million in the six months to end-June. The interim dividend is increased from 2p to 2.3p.

£75m BS plan

British Steel is investing £75 million in a second continuous slab casting machine at Port Talbot, South Wales.

Savills deal

Savills, the estate agent, is paying £450,000 for Davies & Millett, a building consultancy

COMMENT David Brewerton

Last chance to team up with the White Squires

A year or two from now, institutional investors may kick themselves over Standard Chartered. This year will be seen as the turning point, and the indigestion in the market in the wake of the £303 million rights issue as the last chance to buy the shares cheaply and in quantity.

It is a turning point in management. Sir Peter Graham, the current chairman, is about to go into well-rewarded retirement, handing over the reins of power and huge chairman's office to the smooth hands of Rodney Galpin, the former Bank of England executive director who on a dull evening could pass as Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

It is also likely to be a turning point in Standard Chartered's fortunes. The interim results a month ago were startlingly strong, and the forecast for the rest of the year indicates a substantial turnaround as the bad debt nightmare fades away.

Next year, too, should be underwritten by the strong economies of the areas in which the bank is now concentrated. Nearly half the profits total now stems from the United Kingdom, which accounts for only just over a third of the assets. Costs are being honed down, and the bank's strong overseas presence used

to sell to the European corporate sector.

The balance sheet has been turned around by the rights issue and within a year the bank should have reached its target of an equity-to-assets ratio of 5 per cent. After the rights issue, and before paying the interim dividend, the ratio is 4.7 per cent, just £100 million or so from target.

Given a reasonable stock market, 1988 should also be the turning point for the shares. The rights issue had a good reception, the shares going up where six weeks ago they would have gone down. But at 512p they are still cheap, offering a yield into double figures and a price/earnings ratio which is almost embarrassing. The rights issue has a substantial diluting effect on earnings per share, but when the p/e ratio can be counted on the fingers of one hand, that hardly seems to matter. The share price is more than covered by assets.

And then there is the speculative element. If a couple of the White Squires do decide to sell, which would suit both Standard Chartered and the Bank of England, that ought to strengthen the share price. If the shares are sold through a placing it will stimulate institutional interest, and if they are sold to a predator... well.

Woolies not so wondrous

The wonder of Woolies is half-time pretax profits leaping nearly 160 per cent to £70 million. But closer examination reveals that the increase was mainly from just two performers: B&Q (whose success had been fore-shadowed the day before by Ward White's Payless figures) and the property division.

The bumper figure includes £17.6 million exceptional profits — £23.5 million refinancing profits less £5.9 million of costs arising on the integration of Superdrug. Stripped out, this brought pre-tax profits back to a more believable level of £52.7 million compared with £27.1 million and showed a retail profits increase of 57 per cent — smaller, but hardly sluggish. The shares reflected the surprise — they gained 8p to 267p at one point — but later closed 1p up at 260p.

The impact of the consumer spending boom in the DIY division was clear. B&Q, which is the market leader, pushed up market share by 2 per cent over the last 12 months. Profits accordingly rose by £10 million to £36.5 million as telephone sales and free home deliveries made their mark.

But the Chancellor of the Exchequer's aim of regulating the economy through interest rates is bound to slow down the spending power of its customers. They will also be hit by the latest round of mortgage rate rises, reducing the number of house moves.

Comet, which makes up the other half of the out-of-town division, improved

market share through the Ultimate stores acquisition in a highly competitive sector, and the benefits of the group's new centralized distribution paid off pushing profits from £3.5 million to £4.2 million.

The high street division, which turned in first-time first-half profits of £2.6 million as Woolworth's losses fell from £6.2 million to £4.9 million, saw the number of Superdrug outlets double as Tip Top and Share Drug were converted.

Meanwhile, in the old Woolworth stores, being gradually revamped through the Focus scheme, payroll costs came down as the new distribution system came through and as selling space continued to fall. Now down to 6.6 million sq ft it remains a massive arena, particularly when the retail sector is in such doldrums.

But the other jewel in the crown of results was undoubtedly Chartwell Land, which contributed £32 million compared with £19.7. Of this the bulk, £20.7 million, came from investment profits, while a £23.5 million surplus was accounted for by sale and leaseback. Nearly £4 million was raised by realizations of former retail premises and the balance of £7.6 million was from completed and sold development projects.

But despite all the euphoria, the reluctance exhibited yesterday by the management, headed by Geoff Mulcahy, to say anything about the second half leaves an uneasy feeling.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE: POSTAL SERVICES

Information for all VAT-registered traders

VAT returns for the period ending 31 July 1988 (7/88) were due to be received by the Controller VAT Central Unit at Southend on 31 August 1988. If your return for that period is still outstanding you should arrange to deliver it, and any other returns outstanding for earlier periods, to your Local VAT Office together with any payment due. The returns and payment should be enclosed in the official envelopes provided.

Returns for the period ending 31 August 1988 (8/88) should also be delivered to your local VAT office if it seems likely that the disruption to postal services will prevent delivery to Southend by the due date of 30 September 1988. You will find the address of the Local VAT Office in your

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Repayment traders — special arrangements

Repayments to regular 'Repayment' traders which are made directly to their bank accounts will not have been affected.

If you are expecting a payable order and have not received payment within three weeks of the date of posting your VAT return you should contact your LVO for advice.

Non VAT payments by Customs and Excise



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HM Customs and Excise

VAT



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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

September 15, 1988

Richard Pearson, an employment specialist, analyses the problems for business and industry recruiters in the 1990s

With the new academic year about to start, the job prospects for graduates have never looked brighter. Vacancies have risen by more than 30 per cent since the recession and in this last year one in two recruiters reported unfilled vacancies at the end of the recruitment round. This demand will continue to grow with economic expansion, yet the supply of new graduates will be severely constrained by the dramatic fall in the number of 18-year-olds during the next five years. In the 1990s graduates will be increasingly scarce and expensive.



The graduate crisis will sharpen competition

Graduates are being sought for a wider range of jobs and careers, with growing numbers going into administration and finance, the professions such as law and accountancy, which have moved to largely graduate intakes, as well as new growth sectors such as retailing, tourism and the fast-food chain. Demand has also grown rapidly in traditional areas such as engineering, construction and local government.

The only black spot has been the near-50 per cent fall in the intake to teacher training. There have been hiccups in this growing demand, as demonstrated by the 1986 downturn in the electronics and computer industry, which led to sharp reductions in graduate intakes. Nevertheless, shortages of information technology graduates persisted, and by this year demand had recovered and the shortages had widened to include high fliers, who have always been scarce, and such diverse groups as mechanical engineers, chemists and candidates for financial work.

the law and teaching.

The breadth of demand is exemplified by the two largest graduate recruiters — one the "traditional" industrial and electronics group GEC-Marconi, the other from the booming accountancy profession Peat Marwick McLintock. Each is seeking more than 1,000 graduates this year. Other large recruiters include the Army, British Airways, the Central Electricity Generating Board, the police, Courtaulds, ICI, Sainsbury and McDonald's, the fast-food chain, which are all seeking more than 150.

Indeed, the accountancy profession is now seeking more than 5,000 graduates a year, one in five of those going into employment, while double that number are likely to be needed for teacher training next year. On a subject basis, teaching will be requiring one in five of those graduating in maths and computing, in an intensely competitive part of the market, and more than half of all French graduates.

Looking ahead, demand will be affected not only by economic growth, but also technological and organizational factors, as well as the availability of alternative types of recruits, be they school-

leavers, who will also be in short supply, experienced workers, or re-entrants to the labour market. Recent research at the Institute of Manpower Studies has shown the growing demand for graduate level skills across all sectors of the economy, both service and manufacturing, and in both the traditional and the new growth sectors.

The number of managers is expected to grow by 20 per cent over the decade to 1995, the number of professionals to increase by 17 per cent, as will health and welfare specialists, and scientists and engineers by 20 per cent over this period. More graduates are also expected to go into small businesses and self-employment, further boosting demand.

If demand increases as it has during the last decade, then intakes will be 20 per cent or more higher by the year 2000, reflecting only a modest growth rate of 1.5-2 per cent per annum, well below the current rate of increase.

The numbers graduating are expected to continue to increase until 1992, although with significant subject differences. For example, the number of university

maths, physics and chemistry graduates is expected to fall next year. With the massive fall during the next five years in the number of 18-year-olds, the traditional entry group to higher education, initiatives are now under way to increase the intakes from non-traditional groups such as mature entrants, ethnic minorities, and those without A-level qualifications.

Nevertheless, the numbers graduating beyond 1992 are expected to fall from a high of 124,000 to a low of 115,000 in 1998 (see diagram). To meet even the above figures, however, nearly one in five of the relevant age group will have to go into higher education, up from 14 per cent today. This is a challenging figure, especially if student loans were to be introduced.

Another problem to be overcome is the swing by students away from engineering and technology courses as witnessed by the 11 per cent fall in applications for these courses during the past three years and the already empty places on courses even before the demographic effect has had its main impact. A similar fall has been apparent in the sciences, while interest has been booming in

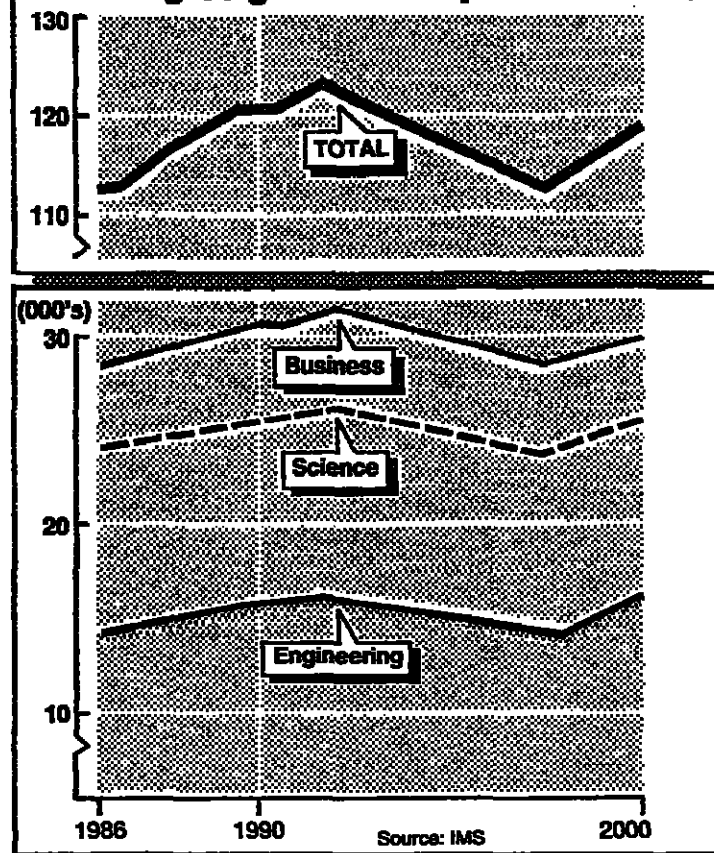
business-related subjects.

These trends mirror a longer-term trend in the United States. The combined effect of demography and student choice is likely to mean that the output of graduates in science and engineering in the mid-1990s will be little better than today.

Whatever the precise level and pattern of demand, it seems clear that it will exceed the level of output into the 1990s and that the competitive position for employers will intensify. A major challenge for employers will be to learn how to use mature graduates, who will be forming an increasing proportion of the output from education. With the cost of graduates also likely to rise significantly, employers will have to improve their selection, induction and use of scarce skills.

In many instances graduates with good skills are being poorly utilized in low-level jobs and roles. Employers also need to sharpen and widen their recruitment activities to include the polytechnics and colleges, and Higher National Diploma students and those from conversion courses. Employers will also have to increase their support for all levels of the education system, including the

First degree graduate output 1986-2000



teaching profession, if they are to attract their share of scarce skills.

Last year industrial support for the universities grew by 10 per cent to £68 million, but many more universities and polytechnics are seeking sponsorship and support for chairs and research activities. Better liaison and support for careers advisers and academics, as well as sponsorship of undergraduates, are other cost-effective ways of attracting

graduates in scarce disciplines. Graduates are going to be increasingly scarce and expensive in the 1990s. Recruiters and employers need to ensure they are ready now to compete in this challenging environment.

Richard Pearson is deputy director of the Institute of Manpower Studies.

Reference: R. Pearson and G. Pike, Graduate Supply and Demand into the 1990s, IMS 1988

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The continuing growth of the polytechnic has resulted in the creation of this new key appointment. The Deputy Assistant Director will be responsible for the provision of personnel services in respect of over 2,000 academic and non-academic staff. In addition, this position offers responsibility for the wide range of support activities provided by the services department. A total of over 50 staff will report to the appointee.

Candidates will be over 35 with substantial strong personnel management experience, including union negotiations, preferably gained in the private sector. They should be keen to introduce innovative ideas and must possess well developed management skills. Ref: 7249

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR

£20,000

The management of the polytechnic is under the direction of a dynamic and forward looking Director who now requires an executive assistant to support her in her responsibilities for the day to day administration. This is an important and challenging role at the centre of the polytechnic's administrative function and it offers excellent scope for career development.

Candidates will be graduates at an early stage in their career who wish to build upon their administrative experience gained to date, probably in higher education or in the public sector. We seek a self-starter, who is ambitious, diplomatic and has excellent communication and administrative skills. Ref: 7288

Please apply, in strict confidence, quoting the appropriate reference, to Edward Ross-McNairn, Clark Whitehill Consultants Limited, 25 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN. Telephone 01-353 1577



CHIEF ASSISTANT TO SENIOR DIRECTOR

Our Senior Director requires a CHIEF ASSISTANT who will manage all aspects of Barnardo's royal patronage and work on a wide variety of assignments — preparing briefs, researching background material, organising major events, proposing new initiatives.

Applicants should be graduates or able to demonstrate a high level of numeracy, conceptual and communication skills. You should have had experience of managing people and of working constructively with colleagues from a variety of professional backgrounds. You should be able to listen carefully, think clearly and act decisively. You also need to be prepared to travel throughout the United Kingdom and work some unsocial hours.

The successful candidate can expect to be influential in the management and development of this leading charity. The modern Barnardo's is committed to working with children and young people who have mental or physical disabilities, who face emotional or social stress or whose parents seek support. We assist over 16,000 youngsters every year.

Barnardo's is a Christian based organisation. Applications for the post are welcomed from persons irrespective of disability, marital status, sex or race.

For further information and application form, please contact Babs Oakley, Personnel Officer, Head Office, Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex IG6 1QG Tel. 01-550-8822 ext. 288. Closing date 7th October 1988.



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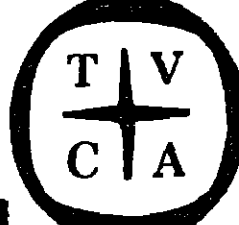
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DIRECTOR Document Supply Centre Boston Spa, West Yorkshire

The British Library is one of the world's most important repositories of information. It is not surprising, therefore, that our Document Supply Centre is one of the most comprehensive suppliers of documents in the world. Our 100 miles of shelving and 1,700 miles of microfilm contain some 7 million documents; and our 750 employees handle an average of one document request every 2 seconds.

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The purpose of previews is to explain graphically and in some detail what is involved in taking up a career as a FINANCIAL CONSULTANT with the Company. They are not interviews but illustrated presentations to provide you with information on:

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- THE JOB
- THE PRODUCTS
- THE TRAINING
- THE REWARDS

A Career Preview lasts about 1½ hrs. and includes a buffet with wine. There are two sessions on the Preview day. You may attend either the lunch time session (12.45 pm - 2.15 pm) or the evening session (6.45 pm - 8.15 pm) without any commitment.

If you are aged between 25-55, of good general education, enjoy meeting people and can handle the challenges and hard work of a well paid self-employed job, telephone or write to us at the address below to arrange your formal invitation to a CAREER PREVIEW.

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for the translation of financial, economic and other technical texts from French, German and Italian and the revision/editing of "English" texts.

Qualifications required: Good degree from a British university; perfect command of English and a sound grounding in economics; very good knowledge of French, German and, preferably, Italian and several years' experience in translating.

Attractive salary, pension scheme and other ancillary benefits.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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This role offers you the opportunity to break out of the restrictions of a market specialisation and to develop high level assessment skills. You will also have the

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Do you have the background and energy to join us? You should already be a recruitment professional with experience gained either in the personnel function or in a recruitment consultancy. In addition to a successful track record in your chosen field, you must be able to communicate effectively. Ideally a graduate, you should have a positive, creative and flexible approach. A qualification in psychometric testing would be an advantage.

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Please write, enclosing full career details to Jane Woodward at the address below quoting reference ES3.



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3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5PU. TELEPHONE 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-256 8501.

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The successful applicant will work with the present officer until his retirement in August 1989, and will be required to commence early in January 1989. Salary scale £15,000-£18,500. Applicants should preferably be in age group 40-50 years. Full details of the duties and application forms can be obtained from the finance and administration officer of the British Judo Association.

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THE REWARDS:

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In the event of postal difficulties please use fax:
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Please contact, in strict confidence, Barry Underwood, advisor to the Chairman, quoting reference 5135/T, at Deloitte Haskins & Sells, PO Box 198, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7PL. Tel: 01-248 3913.

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Management Consultancy Division

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Telephone 01-686 5701 Fax 01-686 6811

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c £19,000 pa inc London Weighting

The Law Society has recently been restructured and is now looking for a young, experienced Business Analyst to join its new Management Services Unit.

Management Services operates as an internal consultancy to the Society, analysing business needs and recommending solutions, which may include organisational change, enhancements to existing systems (manual or automated) and the installation of new systems/procedures. The unit also works closely with Computing Services, assisting with feasibility studies and the design and installation of computer systems.

This is an exciting opportunity to work in a dynamic environment, where senior management support innovation and expect the unit to be in the vanguard of change.

Applicants for this challenging post must have a minimum of three years' experience in OIM, be numerate and articulate and have excellent interpersonal skills. Clerical work measurement skills and some experience of computer systems are essential.

In return, we will offer you an excellent remuneration package including 25 days' leave, interest free season ticket loan, subsidised staff restaurant, contributory pension scheme, free life assurance and BUPA.

Please apply with full CV to Roger Woodley, Personnel Controller, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. (By 23rd September 1988)

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Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, a member of The Securities Association, is seeking an Executive to join its Energy Group which is situated within the Corporate Finance Division. The Group provides advice to oil industry clients regarding acquisitions and divestments, asset based financing and other financial advice. The role will involve research, analytical and valuation work, as well as considerable client contact.

Applicants should be aged under 30 and have 2-5 years experience of cashflow evaluation and knowledge of the UK oil taxation regime, probably acquired in the oil industry or in the financial sector.

The remuneration package will be highly competitive and will include a preferential mortgage scheme, non-contributory pension scheme and private medical cover.

Applications, including full personal and career details, should be sent to:

Miss G. Nash
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You should be aged under 30 with at least 3 years' accounts experience.

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Interested? Phone one of our consultants for a confidential discussion, James Metzger, John Whitehead or Kevin de Waal at Park Sales & Management Consultants Ltd, 174-176 North Gower Street, London NW1 2NB. Tel 01-380 6323/0454.



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The successful candidate will have an excellent record of academic achievement, and remuneration will reflect the exceptional quality of the chosen candidate.

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Financial Director

London Electricity faces major commercial challenges in the 1990's, following privatisation: competing in a deregulated market, planning long-term strategic investments, maintaining a sound financial base and establishing good relations with the City. The Board employs over 7000 people with a turnover of £1 billion and wishes to combine value for its future shareholders with quality service for its customers.

The Financial Director will play a crucial role in developing, implementing and communicating financial strategy, liaising with Government and financial institutions and building new functions such as treasury and taxation. Evaluating options and opportunities - including joint ventures, acquisitions and diversification, will be a priority.

The appointment demands a high calibre qualified Accountant, probably under 50, with extensive board level experience in a substantial and successful PLC. Candidates should demonstrate entrepreneurial drive and strong

negotiating and managerial skills, together with considerable exposure to dealings with City institutions and shareholders.

Compensation will be competitive and will satisfy applicants of the highest calibre. It is intended that the successful candidate should be appointed to the Board of the Company which it is proposed will succeed the London Electricity Board. The position will be based in Holborn.

Please contact Barbara Robertson in strict confidence, by writing with details of age, career and salary progression, education and qualifications, quoting reference 5141/T on envelope, letter, fax (01-489 0243) or by telephoning 01-248 3913.

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Our client, a prestigious expanding Merchant Bank, has the following quality positions available. All positions include generous benefits.

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RECRUITMENT

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Overseas	Patrick Porter	01-778 6568
Part Qualified/Timebarred	Stephen Bowie	01-467 7015
Senior Appointments	John Fraser	01-226 1579
Tax Appointments	Joan Nichamin	0438 814462/815006
Temporary Assignments	Dominic Wheeler	01-504 6403

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Qualified Banking/Finance	Fiona Birt-Llewellyn	01-542 2159
Qualified Industry/Commerce	Michael Herst	01-502 1247
Part Qualified/Timebarred	John Vonk	01-720 1527
Tax Appointments	Annie Maxey	01-870 8891
Temporary Assignments	Sallie Styles	01-931 0976

THAMES VALLEY/SOUTH COAST

Practice Opportunities	Michelle Ser	01-568 4068
Commercial Opportunities	Adrian Barrett	0442 85369
Temporary Assignments	Marika Koppenol	0734 866629

Alternatively, if you wish to fax your CV then please do so on 01-491 4705 (24 hours) and include your home telephone number.

HARRISON WILLIS

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Cardinal House, 39-40 Albemarle St., London W1X 3FD. Tel: 01-629 4463.

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The company is a City based subsidiary of one of the fastest growing investment banking groups in the Arab and Islamic world.

Please contact Jo Athome, Tel: 01-629-4995 for further information.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

Major R&D company Maidenhead

BNR Limited is a subsidiary of the leading telecommunications research and development company in North America. Our laboratory is based on the outskirts of Maidenhead and currently employs around 170 staff.

We require someone to be responsible for the financial accounting functions, including preparation of monthly and statutory accounts, monthly balance sheet reconciliations, purchase ledger, salaries, cashing and intercompany transactions - all within tight deadlines and to satisfy internal/external audits. Compliance and development of local policies and procedures is an important part of the job. The system is heavily computerised and IBM mainframe/PC knowledge would be advantageous.

The successful applicant for this high calibre position, which includes the management and development of a small finance team, will be a finalist/newly qualified accountant with energy and ambition.

We offer a competitive salary and the comprehensive benefits include relocation allowance, private health care, company vested savings plan and contributory pension plan.

Call Freefone 3277 for an application form, or write with full c.v. to:

Maria Morgan, Human Resources, BNR Limited, BNR Park, Concorde Road, Norreys Drive, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4AG.

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20 Accountancy Personnel

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We would like to hear from individuals or groups who will welcome the opportunity of joining an organisation that is committed to long term growth and development within the financial services industry.

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For further information on this exceptional opportunity, please telephone the practice's recruitment adviser, David Hughes on 01 242 8103 (evenings/weekends 0438 350000) or write to him at the address shown below.



RECRUITMENT SELECTION & ADVERTISING

EXECUTIVE CONNECTIONS

43 Eagle Street
London WC1R 4AP Tel: 01-242 8103

CHASE DE VERE HOME LOANS PLC

Chase De Vere Home Loans plc one of the country's leading mortgage advisors are currently seeking top quality management personnel to support expansion programme. Experience in mortgage broking or financial services essential. Outstanding career opportunity, with very attractive starting package. For full details contact Simon Tyler on 01-930 7242, or send C.V. to 125 Pall Mall, London SW1.

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Responsible for overall control of finance and for contributing to future strategy of the company, priorities include streamlining of the accounts function to meet the challenging demands of the market.

Successful applicants will possess strength of character and generous interpersonal qualities. Ref: JNSPL/MT.

For further information contact:
Accountancy Personnel
9 Leadenhall
London EC3N 1BN
Tel: 01-402 0088

Pineapple

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
c£25,000

The Pineapple Group seeks commercially aware qualified accountant capable of heading up a small accounting function. Essential personal qualities will include flexibility, drive and enthusiasm. Previous experience in the fashion industry would be advantageous. Excellent prospects for advancement. Applications with comprehensive C.V. to:

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LONDON
W1M 3RR

HORIZONS

The place to build the mind and body

I wondered: "What am I doing here?" I was perched in a tree on a zip wire, preparing to launch myself across a gully on a zip wire. I don't like heights. I dislike rain, too, and it was coming down with all the intensity of a Lake District downpour. I was observing work at a leadership development centre. Observing? It became participative.

Whatever happened to the phrase, "Our reporter made her excuses and left?"

Large companies have used development training for a long time. They are now being joined by smaller ones, and by a significant number of public sector organizations, in using one of the many residential management centres that often get lumped together under the umbrella title "Outward Bound type". The popular, but inaccurate, image is of executives forced to push themselves to the limit in physical exercise. Managers invited to attend such courses often feel apprehensive - maybe after an appraisal - or query the value of the exercise.

Brathay Hall Trust Centre for Leadership and Development Training in Ambleside, which I visited, aims to "blur the boundaries between outdoor and indoor activities", says the marketing director, Steve Crowther, "so that we are not seen primarily as an outward bound centre". That

**Beryl Dixon
participates in
a leadership
training centre
that has an
impressive list
of clients**

certainly ties in with the comment of one client, IBM: "We use them for team-building and leadership training because we like a combination of outdoor activities and discussion and indoor project work."

Brathay was founded in 1946 as an educational charity to provide young people working in industry with new challenges and experiences, but since industry and commerce began to appreciate the value of development training in the 1970s, it has expanded its work, and now has three arms - a Centre for Young Learning, the MSC-Accredited Training Centre for Cumbria, and the CLDT. The last provides courses at all levels, from younger employees preparing for early responsibility,

through to professional staff and senior managers.

Why do companies invest in such training? Bearing in mind the cost of removing executives from the workplace, would not an in-house course be more cost-effective? Yet it is the companies with large internal training departments, such as IBM, that are the greatest users.

"People are more open away from the office environment," says Carol Hunt, of the TSB Trust Company, which has used a Brathay Open Course, "and they benefit from working with their group for several days."

Open courses are preferred by companies that can spare only one or two employees at a time, or see value in their staff meeting people at similar levels in other companies. Others prefer the custom-made type. In such cases, a great deal of preparation time is spent with the client. "Standard packages are out. Clients want short, intensive, value-for-money and, above all, relevant courses," says Mr Crowther.

A Brathay tutor visits the client to establish the objectives of the courses - which may be to improve leadership, or communication skills. Frequently the aim is team-building. The tutor looks in depth at the actual jobs of potential delegates, and an agreed programme is drawn up. After the



● Walking on the wild side: Steve Crowther, marketing director at the Centre for Leadership and Training, left, with Dave Smith, his senior tutor, on the slopes of Longrigg Fell, near Lake Windermere

Salford City Council treasurer's department, which was looking for a team-building event.

"We had identified problems of communication across, down and upward," said the assistant city treasurer, "together with a lack of staff morale. In local government these days you feel attacked from all sides. We wanted to give our staff some confidence as well."

The treasurer and his senior management team attended the first course, which emphasized leadership. The middle managers went next, and the course I saw was one of two for supervisors - designed to improve communication and effectiveness. Had they worked? The majority of course members I asked certainly thought so. They had not even objected to sleeping in bunk beds, accepting that as part of the course.

And back in Salford, the assistant treasurer said: "All the indications are that lessons have been learned, which we are managing to put into practice at work. Individual feedback has been positive, and I'm sure the department is benefiting."

● Further information from: Centre for Leadership and Development Training, Brathay Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA 22 0HP. Advice on how to choose from the various residential centres can be obtained from the recently formed Development Trainers Users Trust, c/o GEC Management Centre, Dunchurch, near Rugby, Warwickshire

01-481 4481

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

01-481 4481

FINANCE DIRECTOR - RETAIL

Central London

ACA's/ACCA's/ACMA's 30-35

c. £35,000+ (+ car)
+ Benefits

Our client is a major stores sub-group within a very large retail group seeking to recruit a Finance Director.

Reporting to the Chief Executive, the role will cover all key financial reporting areas: financial and management accounts, annual budgets, budget variance analysis/remedial action, cash flow forecasts, stock control, capital expenditure control, control of finance department staff, review and enhancement of existing computer systems/EPOS, liaison with auditors, and technical reporting to Group Finance Executives.

Candidates (male or female) should ideally have experience of the retail or "people related" business sectors, have an ability to relate to merchandisers and have an extrovert personality. Computer modelling experience is desirable.

For more information please contact George Ormrod BA (Oxon) on 01-836 9501 or arrange delivery of your c.v. to Douglas Llambras Associates Ltd., 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS, quoting reference no. 2427.

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(ii) Two years post qualified A.C.A.'s with especially strong track record for CORPORATE FINANCE roles.

(iii) Managers from Public Practice for senior posts in CORPORATE AUDIT and PROJECT FINANCE.

Each entry point is regarded as a springboard appointment that will give high calibre qualified accountants an unusually good opportunity to gain direct experience of the City and earn promotion at an early stage.

In the first instance please telephone Chris French at the address below in order to arrange a confidential discussion to take matters further. (You may fax your c.v. on 01-831 0149).

the fleet partnership

Financial Recruitment Consultants, 37/41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. 01-831 1101 (24 hours)

Spencer Stuart

on behalf of

THE LONDON INSTITUTE

Director of Finance and Administration

On 1st April 1989, the London Institute will become a corporate body with headquarters based close to Oxford Street. A key step, vital to the successful development of the Institute, will be the appointment of the Director of Finance and Administration.

The London Institute and its seven constituent colleges has over 20,000 students, a revenue budget exceeding £35m and a major property portfolio valued at over £150m. The London Institute is predominantly concerned with education in the Arts, design/design-related studies and a wide range of vocational courses at degree and diploma level.

The Finance Director, a qualified accountant probably aged between 40 and 50, will be directly responsible to the Rector for the full financial function, its policies, practices, systems, budgets and performance control, and for central administrative arrangements. The task is challenging and requires someone of outstanding calibre. This will be reflected in the compensation package. In view of the significance of the post, Spencer Stuart & Associates have been asked to advise and assist in the appointment.

Those interested should write, enclosing a curriculum vitae, in confidence to: The London Institute, c/o Spencer Stuart, 113 Park Lane, London W1Y 4HJ.

Head Office Accountant
International Group

London - Mayfair

c £27,500 + Car

Our client is an international engineering group with a turnover approaching £1bn and over 50 subsidiary companies worldwide. The Group is enjoying a period of sustained profit growth and is dedicated to maintaining market leadership in all areas of operation. An important feature of the Group's success is an efficiently managed Head Office and central services function.

The requirement is for a qualified accountant to run the day-to-day accounting routines of the Group's Head Office of 50 people. Reporting to the Group Financial Controller, you will also be responsible for providing an effective financial administration and control service for department heads, including budget preparation and expenditure control utilising micro computer based systems.

This is a high profile role involving liaison with senior management. The personal qualities sought, therefore, include maturity, discretion and sound communication skills.

If you are aged 35-45 with the experience and personality suitable for this role, please write enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae and daytime telephone number, quoting Ref: 256, to Barry Rice, BA, ACA, Whitehead Rice, 295 Regent Street, London W1R 8JH. Tel: 01-437 8736. Fax: 01-436 0971.

Whitehead Rice

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

MANAGING DIRECTOR
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Burlington Investments Limited, a member of FIMBRA and a subsidiary of H. Young Holdings PLC, wishes to appoint as Managing Director a commercially-minded qualified accountant who is preferably an approved FIMBRA member.

Burlington's main activity is that of merger broking and it is also used by Young to identify companies which Young may wish to acquire.

A base salary in the region of £30,000 per annum is envisaged which can be substantially enhanced by a profit sharing scheme based on Burlington's results.

The position is based in the West End of London.

Applications from suitable candidates should be addressed to John Wilson, Executive Chairman, H. Young Holdings PLC, 25/28 Old Burlington Street, London W1X 1LB marked 'Burlington'.

During the postal dispute applications can be faxed on 01-439 1879.

GI Group plc
GROUP FINANCE DIRECTOR

WEST MIDLANDS

C. I. Group plc is a Wolverhampton based company with 16 operating companies formed into a Steel and Building Materials Division and an Engineering Division, with a total annual turnover of £55m.

The Group has expanded rapidly by acquisition and organic growth and has now identified the need for a Group Finance Director to work closely with the Group Chief Executive in directing and controlling the financial affairs of the Group. The candidate should have sound experience at Group level, and have some experience in dealing with the City.

Salary will be by negotiation but the successful applicant is unlikely to be earning less than £35,000 in his present employment. In addition to salary the remuneration package will include pension scheme, share options BUPA and an executive car.

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Continued on next page

THE SECRETARY'S WORLD

Jobs galore, but who is talented enough?

The young, well-groomed, slightly flushed and genuinely bewildered would-be secretary on the other side of the executive's desk inquired: "Filing? What's that?" She had come to the interview proud of her diploma from a London college which turns out poised, discreetly made-up, enthusiastic young ladies with modest typing skills and high hopes of turning these assets into a career.

In fact, I was the executive, and I hired the young woman; she was so interested and eager to learn more when I explained what filing was. Of course, once she had mastered the art of cross-referencing she took her skills to another employer who paid her more.

So I wasn't really surprised when Chris Kelly, managing director of Reed Employment, told me that the company can fill only one in five of the secretarial jobs on the books of its 100-plus branches.

"For those with the appropriate skills there are opportunities galore," he said. "In central London, a well-qualified girl in her early 20s can earn £15,000 a year. But we just can't find enough qualified people. It's an educational problem, and likely to get worse."

"Young people just aren't trained to the standards commerce and industry expect. They can't spell. They can't set out letters and reports properly. And,

A leading jobs agent criticizes some of today's secretaries, and their employers, for lack of essential office skills. They're not what they were, he claims. Jean Scroggie sets out to find the answer

regrettably, many colleges only teach their students to type at the bare minimum words per minute; what's needed is over 60wpm, and an accurate 60wpm, plus."

"There's no slackening in the demand for shorthand. New technology keyboard skills don't fare much better, he says. Many colleges skip along on only a half-day's tuition a week. Word-processing, with so many non-compatible systems around, has become highly confusing, even to the girls who are cross-trained; schools should concentrate instead on training students to operate IBM-compatible PCs.

And employers don't rate much higher with him. He thinks they should offer more training. "A girl should expect to be trained by the firm, it should be automatic."

Employers should define their office jobs more accurately — "personal assistant is now a devalued term; some of them can't even type". And they should drop their "anti-reaction" to hiring older women who can spell, even if they're not so decorative."

Older women, of course, get a better reception as temps, and this market is booming. Firms save on NHS and pension payments, holiday money and redundancy.

I decided to check out some of Mr Kelly's complaints with one or two schools and institutions.

Mrs Fiona Fleming-Brown is the spokeswoman for St Godric's Secretarial College in Hampstead, London. The fees are £1,425 a term (courses are either two or three terms) with an additional charge for staying in their houses of residence, and their own placement agency which caters for the requirements of, say, Buckingham Palace, merchant banks, the BBC, public relations firms, charities.

St Godric's has, she assured me, just taken possession of a posse of Amstrad IBM-compatible personal computers ("spreadsheets are very popular"). The students also learn shorthand ("useful for taking messages from car phones, notes on site, or when travelling on aeroplanes"), spelling ("university students often can't spell — they're the product of the Sixties with its emphasis on verbal expression"), punctuation ("most



The lady type-writers

Left: the office of 1989 with the demure, and over-dressed, lady type-writers at work on their clattering machines — a far cry from today's high-tech office

British students to America. They are much prized over there as good, efficient, and well-trained, but probably not best pleased to discover that in the US office staff work flat out 12 hours a day, and are entitled to only two weeks' holiday a year.

But America can't match the calibre of a job advertised in *The Times* recently: "Distinguished Gentleman offering £13,000 plus Superb Package... Chairman of a plc, on many boards, own country estate, needing a unique PA with superb memory and highly organized..."

I thought it must be one of those jobs that don't really exist; phone, and the job's "just gone" or you discover the boss has had 10 secretaries in as many months.

The advertisement turned out to be cross-your-heart genuine; he really did need someone truly brilliant to organize his fishing weekends in Scotland and other social functions; to keep track of his share-dealings and manage his country estate staff, so that his secretary of seven years could concentrate full-time on his expanding corporate interests.

The agents for the job — Maine-Tucker, one year in business — are a lively group of six females who insist that all their advertisements are real because... they are all former secretaries themselves.

students like these lessons — they've been wondering how to tell where the commas should go, the laying out of reports, and the sort of filing which the boss, too, can find his way around.

The college does not have an "assertiveness" course but there is a class on communications skills — "how to make your power clear to someone being abusive on the phone, or how to ask for a rise."

In their "students' office" they practice all office skills: one teacher playing boss, dictating letters which are interrupted by phone calls, and which must be finished, filed and cross-referenced afterwards.

This seemed to me the very model of the sort of college Mr Kelly said was needed, and I was not surprised to learn that its

graduates not only learn French shorthand and other pre-1992 EEC business skills, but also the art of grilling potential bosses at interviews for posts, where they can assert that they expect to end up at executive level fairly smartly, with their own secretaries.

I should not be surprised if they are regularly nominated for the Secretary of the Year award at the London Secretary Show. This is quite a young event, and growing rapidly. About 150 companies — airlines, big hotels, florists, stationery and office equipment firms — gather to catch the eye of thousands of top secretaries who authorize the purchase of such services.

It is estimated that there are one million secretaries in Britain, and that 70 per cent of them are "top

secretaries whose combined buying power, either directly or through consultation, is now more than £1 billion.

Some of their bosses try to prevent them from attending the show in case they should be poached by the opposition, but 15,000 are expected at the next show, between April 11-13.

Some of them might well be graduates of another elite college, the Oxford and County Secretarial College, in Oxford. The director, Peter Hall, claims that its students are so keen on computing, spreadsheeting, electronic mailing and so forth that they ask to stay on after class. He is planning to add desktop publishing to the curriculum.

The college teaches American students about British and European business practices, and sends

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£10,000 - £12,000 p.a. according to age and experience.

We are a small, but dynamic, non smoking office.

Please ring Mr M Lynch on 01 409 1903

LEGAL FLOAT SECRETARY-£13,500

Well established City Solicitors are seeking a mature and experienced legal secretary to act on varied assignments. Excellent working environment. 2 yrs litigation exp. needed. For this and many more positions

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Secretary/PA with exp. in legal field. Must be a good typist and have a good knowledge of legal procedure. Salary £14,500 - a.s. Phone RLE 01 589 1216.

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Great sec opportunity to join US law firm in the City. SH/Wang exp. Very generous salary + o/t + perks.

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Required for WCI Chartered Accountants. Able to work on own initiative. Salary negotiable. Previous experience in the profession would be a definite advantage. Ring Chris 01 388 2911

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

£14,000 + Exec Bens

A Senior Executive of this International Bank needs a top PA to organize his business and personal life. You will liaise with clients, make initial 'new business calls' and need to be extremely organised to keep up with complex travel itineraries and a busy diary. Excellent shorthand/typing skills essential.

Please telephone 01-248 3744

Early/late appointments arranged

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants

2 Bow Lane London EC4

£15,000 NEG + EXCELLENT BENEFITS BILINGUAL ITALIAN

PA/Sec to assist Director (Italian) of large prestigious Merchant Bank. Fluent Italian is essential. Experience in dealing with confidential matters. Excellent benefits. Excellent salary. Age 25-35. Salary 100,000/yr.

£11,000 NEG + EXCELLENT BENEFITS Director level position for PA/Sec. Well known British Merchant Bank. International banking background ideal. (A minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Excellent salary. Age 25-35. Salary 100,000/yr.)

Phone 01-437 8476 or 734 3788, 193 Oxford Street Rec Cons

Miller/McNish

PA TO DIRECTOR £13,800 + Perks

Prestigious City based bank are currently recruiting a PA/Secretary to assist a Director in their international department. You will need to have very good SH and typing skills (100-120 SH, 60+ typing) and plenty of initiative, enthusiasm and diplomacy. For full details on this post please call Theresa Satter or Claire Moxley on 01 628 1184 or 01 628 6200 x 364. Immediate interviews available. Ambassador Personnel.

2nd Jobber?

Thinking of your next career move? If you are young, confident and ready for a greater challenge, then our client, a major City bank is looking for you. A mortgage subsidy is only one of the excellent banking benefits available. Highly competitive salary. If you have sound secretarial skills, initiative and sound organising flair, in short, if you are resourceful enough to make your mark, call 01-493 0713 for further details.

MERRY WEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRY WEATHER

Working for this large securities company in the city. Applicants will ideally be 30 years of age with a minimum of 5 years experience and knowledge of the legal side of credit control. Some account experience preferred. Perks include 5 weeks holiday, LV's and Pension scheme. For further details and an immediate interview please call Samantha Harvey on 251 2081

KEYSTONE RECRUITMENT

CREDIT CONTROLL Manager/Manageress £14,000 a.s.e

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Flourishing Secretary with experience in all aspects of legal to join high flying firm within prominent City based Solicitors. £14,000 + p.p.g.

Trifles Legal Secretary - an opportunity for bright person with accurate audio typing, full training given in all aspects of working in a busy solicitors. £10,000 + bonus.

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Temp - look no further we consistently need skilled WP Secretaries now.

Ring Jacqui on 01-242 2344

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME



Thames Television International TO DIRECTOR OF SALES

Thames Television International is the major programme distributor within TV selling programmes to more than 100 countries.

Following recent promotion, we need to appoint a replacement for the Secretary to the Director of Sales. This is a senior secretarial position within the Company and we therefore seek applicants who have had experience at a similar level.

In addition to having excellent shorthand skills, you should also be fully conversant with the use of a word processor.

As well as the usual wide-ranging secretarial duties, you will be required to take accurate minutes, draft routine reports and handle a number of administrative tasks relating to the Company's sales activities.

You will be dealing with people at all levels both internally and externally and, therefore, good social skills are important, as is the ability to maintain confidentiality. Knowledge of the programme distribution business would be an advantage.

If you have good organisational and secretarial skills with word-processing experience, then please contact the Personnel Department on 01-387 9494 extension 4295 for an application form. Alternatively you may send in a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae to 306-316 Euston Road, London NW1 3BB. Applications should be received by no later than the closing date, Wednesday 28th September 1988.

Thames is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes all applications regardless of sex, ethnic origin or marital status.

Fed up with commuting to London? U.K. Subsidiary of international group, near Upchurch Kent, needs two senior secretaries.

Secretary/PA to the Sales Manager: He is responsible for sales of £20 million; you should be able to take both audio and shorthand and to operate a wordprocessor, training can be given if required; you will need to set up and use a database of customers and products.

Secretary/PA to the Company Secretary/Commercial Manager: He is responsible for all aspects of financial control, personnel, legal matters and administration; you must be able to work unsupervised and on your own initiative in person administration, insurance matters and motor vehicle administration; you should be an accurate typist, some accounts typing will be necessary, as well as provision of secretarial support to the administrative departments.

For both positions the salary package offered is up to £10,500 depending on experience and ability including a bonus paid under the Profit Related Pay Scheme. All the usual company benefits are provided, including a non-contributory pension scheme.

Please write enclosing a curriculum vitae to:

Mrs. B. Gledhill,
Mailing Secretarial Services,
73 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6NA.

Secretary/PA Victoria

Booker plc, the international food and agribusiness company, seeks an experienced and self-motivated secretary for a main board director. The successful applicant will have good shorthand and word-processing skills, sound experience at senior level, ideally with a City or corporate finance background, and will be a valued member of a friendly and informal team carrying out varied and confidential work.

A competitive salary is offered, together with LVs, SAYE share option scheme, season ticket loan and choice of pension schemes.



Suitably qualified applicants should telephone Anne Riddoch

01 828 9850

No agencies.

SECRETARY/P.A.

We are seeking a Secretary/PA for the Sales Director at our offices in Old Bond Street, W1.

The person required must have presence, presentation and experience to deal with customers at Director level, plus first class Secretarial skills. Previous experience of the fragrance and cosmetic world or similar prestige business would be an advantage.

We offer an attractive benefits package including good salary and bonus. For further details and an appointment for interview, please telephone Mrs Linda England in the Personnel Department; or in her absence, kindly ask for Mrs Jean Kennard, Company Personnel Manager on 01-688 7131 Ext 252.

CHANEL

CENTAUR LIMITED

The leading international art publication in fine carpets and textiles.

ADVERTISEMENT SALES SECRETARY

Enthusiastic hardworking individual to work in international advertising sales team. Essential requirements: good typing and word processing skills, and the ability to work under pressure. A good telephone manner and spoken German very desirable. Responsibilities to include: PA and secretary to the Advertisement Manager; copy chasing and liaison with clients; Sales Administration and documentation. For the committed person an excellent career opportunity is offered. Salary £10,000.

ADVERTISEMENT PRODUCTION SECRETARY

An opportunity exists for a recently qualified college graduate with print technology and graphic design knowledge. Responsibilities will include: Copy chasing and proofreading; Production scheduling and costing; Some creative ability and good telephone manner preferred. Training in high quality colour proofing and printing techniques will be given. This position offers opportunities to become Production Manager. Informal but professional Company with offices situated in London NW6 Salary £8,000.

Please telephone for interview: Sebastian on 01 328 9341 or Jane Lewis on 01 439 4222.

ITALIAN-SPEAKING P.A. in Banking

£15,000 neg. + mortgage subsidy

This City-based Italian Merchant Bank is currently recruiting for a professional, efficient P.A. to work at Chairman level. It is essential that you have previously worked within the financial sector at senior level, have first-class typing skills (shorthand an advantage) and possess excellent administrative and organisational abilities.

Call Caroline King
FOX RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Tel: 01-499 0415

DIRECTORS SECRETARY HIGHGATE

Director of small company requires Secretary to aid in client liaison, general office administration and typing. Some computer knowledge an advantage. Salary £10,000 pa negotiable. 9.30-5.00pm.

Telephone George / Cathy 01-267 6538.

LONDON ARTS DISCOVERY TOURS

15-17 Old Compton St. London W1V 5PJ

is expanding and needs a Secretary (minimum 2 yrs experience) to help in the running of these tours for supporters of American contemporary theatre. Good typing, word processing and a sense of humour and team spirit are essential. Salary £10,000. Please phone 01-434 9973.

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(de langue maternelle anglaise)

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De bonne présentation, vous avez une expérience d'au moins 5 ans, qui vous permettra de vous investir dans ce poste varié et évolutif.

Merci d'adresser LETTRE à CH ou en FRANÇAIS, préférences, photo sous ref. T52C, à notre Conslit ARCO, 25 rue Cambon, 75001 PARIS.

Top of the Tree

£13,000

The top man in this global communications company needs a senior secretary to complete his talented team of personal assistants.

He is a household name, synonymous with dynamism and high professionalism. His business is expanding and always varied. Your role would be to provide secretarial support for him and some of his most trusted senior executives, using the very best of your organisational and communication skills.

Flexibility, a cool head and the ability to cope in a fast moving environment will be essential attributes for this top level post. Age: 22-25 Skills: 100/60

City Office
01-726 8491
ANGELA MORTIMER

PA/SEC

£12,600

to work at director level. Excellent skills must be well presented. Lots of responsibility. Call Liz at Kierne Recruitment 01 379 6240

ARE YOU A CREME DE LA CREME COLLEGE LEAVER?

You have poise, charm, initiative along with good secretarial skills. First time jobbers of your calibre have never been in greater demand and have never earned higher rewards. Not just in money but, more importantly, in career terms. So be choosy, don't accept the first job offered. Come to Bernadette and look through some of our highly promising career opportunities.

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Call us today.
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Recruitment Consultants
185/187 Regent St, W1B 5HE
Tel: 01-689 4422

OFFICE MANAGER - TO £15K

Ross Consumer Electronics PLC, market leaders in headphones and a wide range of audio and video products, require a mature, highly experienced Office Manager. Aged around 35, the successful applicant should have experience of personal management with good recruitment and organisational skills and have a flexible approach to duties and be able to work under pressure in a busy office. Good typing speeds with WP experience is essential. Reasonable salary. A non smoker residing within reasonable reach of White City is preferred. The rewards include free medical insurance. Contact B. Johnson, Ross Consumer Electronics PLC, Silver Road, White City Industrial Park, London, W12 7SG Tel: 01 740 5252 or Fax 01 740 9808.

SCANDINAVIAN SPEAKERS

We have a number of challenging vacancies for Scandinavian speakers with good secretarial skills, plenty of initiative, and a flair for organisation. You should be fluent to a conversational level (Norwegian preferred), able to translate effectively, and eager to work in an international environment. We offer excellent salaries in return for your talents. Please call for an immediate interview on 01-548 9934/5.

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CHIC PA 20,000K

Luxurious international fashion, both elegant refined and sophisticated. You will have an appreciation of this environment and be free to occasionally travel to Italy. Excellent organisational and administrative and communication skills. You will be elegant, aged 30 to 40 with excellent secretarial skills (used to the minimum). A true PA role assisting this businessman who would enjoy delegating.

Jane Graham
01 537 2552
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TV PRESS OFFICE

11.5K plus bonus

A superb opportunity has arisen for a young secretary with a P.A., marketing or related background to join the busy press office of a major satellite TV company. Working for the Public Relations Manager, you will act as the link between the department, liaising with press queries, setting up presentations and assisting in all the publicity for their launch next year.

You will need a highly professional approach, be used to dealing with the public and capable of taking on more demanding responsibilities as the department expands. Skills 80/60 and WP Age 21+

Call Angela Mortimer Ltd.
Pecadilly Office
629 9686

ANTIQUE PRINT SHOP - WEST END

Require a young energetic person as an assistant. Duties to include Sales, some administration (typing desirable).

Call Liz at Kierne Recruitment 01 379 6240

SECRETARY/PA

2nd jobber with Property experience aged 20+. Salary £10,000+.

'A' levels, wordprocessing. Genuine prospects and varied work including travel. Tel: A. Clarendon 499 8552

WORLD OF MEDICINE

£12,000

Medical Practice Secretary required to assist Chief Medical Officer in a busy practice. Good typing and word processing skills essential for this worthwhile position. Call Angela Mortimer Ltd on 01-491 3544

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR - To grow with us

INTECO Corporation is a fast-growing, international consultancy specialising in information technology. We need someone to organise the day-to-day running of our London office, including: answering incoming calls, organising and dispatching reports. If you are well-organised and can organise others; are aged 25+; have a strong secretarial background; can work in a team; and are willing to put in the hours to keep on top of this challenge, please contact:

Penny Felix, INTECO Corporation,
20 Red Lion Street, London WC1E 4PB.
Telephone: (01) 831 9006

Salary will not be an issue for the right candidate

Maine-Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

'THE TEMPS KICK-OFF'

If you know us already on the Permanent side you'll know the outstanding array of Clients we recruit for - Advertising, PR, Property, Fashion, Music, Art, Finance - Due to fierce demand the Maine-Tucker Temporary Team has begun, and we aim to make us the Best and Brightest Sought team in London. Our rates too, reflect both the Quality and Professionalism of you and our Clients. So, if you have good, accurate Secretarial Skills, why not call Laura Brindley, Clerk for more information and an immediate interview.

50 Pall Mall, St James's London SW1X 5LB Telephone: 01-925 0548

WORK IN FRANCE - salary up to 14k + relocation benefits.

The French MD of a top international electronic components company is looking for a French-Swiss border to be based in the French-Swiss border. The successful candidate will be a graduate or A-level PA (English mother tongue) who has already worked in France, preferably at a large industrial company. He is a strong character and occasionally visits French speaking clients. You will be working for the Personnel Director who is a warm professional man with a good sense of humour. Both men travel widely in France and in addition to normal secretarial duties you will frequently be consulted as an expert English French linguist. If you are confident about working in a totally French environment and would rather go skiing and exploring the Jura than trek around Paris, please call Angela Mortimer Ltd

Age 25-40 Skills 80/60 + French shorthand Piccadilly Office 629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

Piccadilly Branch

01-629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

INTERIOR DESIGNER CHELSEA

Small Company looking for an Assistant. Homebased, excellent shorthand, initiative and driving licence essential. Salary negotiable. Telephone: 01 352 8172

WIMBLEDON £15,000 OFFICE ADMIN/PA

The Management Services division of the International Organisation are setting up their new office suite in Wimbledon Village. This will be a vital position involving large personal and recruitment, developing the central communication system and providing PA support to the MD. Excellent communication skills are imperative. Skills 80/30. Starting £10,000 + bonus. Ring Caroline on 01-747 1729

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Yacht Designer requires enthusiastic, energetic, computer literate in shorthand, typing and WP. Work with small friendly team in airy attractive Chelsea office. Salary £65,000 plus lunch. Contact Paula Tobias 352 4851

SEC/PA PRESTIGIOUS HOLDINGS CO SW1

Plenty of personal work, organising meetings, telephone liaison, WP and minor office duties. Impressive and busy. £14,000 + perks. Call Debbie at Format 01 831 2885 (Rec Cons).

SOUND INVESTMENT

£10,000

Top property company needs bright, sociable Secretary, excellent shorthand and word processing skills, plus a very young, energetic person in Mayfair. Call Angela Mortimer Ltd on 01-491 3544

THE CHANCE TO SHINE

WE'RE A BUSY DESIGN PRACTICE RETAINED BY SEVERAL OF EUROPE'S LARGEST RETAILERS AND NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE - SOMEONE WITH INITIATIVE AND CONFIDENCE - SOMEONE WHO IS UNFLAPPABLE AND MATURE AND CAN HANDLE ALL SECRETARIAL DUTIES INCLUDING W.P. WITH EASE. YOU'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE TEAM AND OUR CLIENTS IN THE UK AND EUROPE SO FRENCH IS A MUST. IF YOU ARE OVER TWENTY AND LIKE TO TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY TO LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU, GIVE US A RING OR WRITE ENCLOSED YOUR CV AND WE'LL TAKE THINGS FROM THERE.

HELEN CAMPBELL,
HARRISON CAMPBELL LIMITED
82-84 CLEVERWELL ROAD
LONDON E15 3RJ
TELEPHONE 01-251 2112

HEADHUNTERS

Secretary/Administrator

This is an excellent opportunity to join a successful City-based executive search company who require a well qualified secretary to manage their office. The successful applicant will have good secretarial skills (some shorthand), administrative ability, WP experience, a confident telephone manner, and a good appearance. Would suit a person in their early twenties with proven experience who enjoys using their initiative.

A very competitive salary and benefits package is offered.

Please contact:
Jane Harsée,
Baines Gwiner Limited,
1 Gracechurch Street,
London EC3V 0DD
Tel: 01 283 9801

SECRETARY/PA TO DIRECTOR.

The Treasury Department, based in Knightsbridge, of an International Oil Services Company requires an experienced secretary to work in a small team responsible to the Treasury Director. The position is extremely busy and demanding with lots of admin and liaison with our European and US offices. Wordprocessing (not DTP) essential, plus basic knowledge of PC's useful. We prefer non smokers. Salary range £12,000.

In the first instance please telephone Virginia on 823 8934. (No Agencies)

WP OP/ SECRETARY

£11,500/ £13,000+

The City based company we are seeking an experienced WP Operator to assist in the running of the office. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support.

SOCIAL PA/SEC

£12,500 + BENEFITS

Two senior partners in this well established City based company are seeking a PA/Sec who can assist in the running of the office. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support.

EYE FOR FASHION

£11,000

PA/Secretary for head office management team in a well known fashion house. Polished performer with good typing and word processing skills. Excellent telephone manner. Excellent personal appearance. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support.

Call Angela Mortimer Ltd on 01-491 3544

SOUTH KENSINGTON ESTATE AGENT

Require secretary to organise busy and friendly house department. Must have experience of the estate agent's duties and good prospects for someone with excellent. Good salary according to skills.

CONTACT SUKIE
01-589 1243

CHALLENGE IN MAYFAIR

£12,000

PA for partner of top lawyers. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support. You will be responsible for a large secretarial support.

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SUPER SECRETARIES

£11,000 + Bonus/Benefits. International investment bank in the West End seeks a PA/Sec. The successful candidate will be a graduate or A-level PA (English mother tongue) who has already worked in France, preferably at a large industrial company. He is a strong character and occasionally visits French speaking clients. You will be working for the Personnel Director who is a warm professional man with a good sense of humour. Both men travel widely in France and in addition to normal secretarial duties you will frequently be consulted as an expert English French linguist. If you are confident about working in a totally French environment and would rather go skiing and exploring the Jura than trek around Paris, please call Angela Mortimer Ltd

Age 25-40 Skills 80/60 + French shorthand Piccadilly Office 629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

INTERIOR DESIGNER CHELSEA

Small Company looking for an Assistant. Homebased, excellent shorthand, initiative and driving licence essential. Salary negotiable. Telephone: 01 352 8172

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Consultancy is seeking a dynamic, energetic, confident, and highly motivated individual to join our team. Starting £10,000 + bonus. Ring Caroline on 01-747 1729

SEC/PA PRESTIGIOUS HOLDINGS CO SW1

Plenty of personal work, organising meetings, telephone liaison, WP and minor office duties. Impressive and busy. £14,000 + perks. Call Debbie at Format 01 831 2885 (Rec Cons).

WE LIKE OUR SECRETARIES. THEY STAY!

Sadly one of our client's prized secretaries is leaving to have a baby, which means they have to find a new person to join their young and friendly team. If you have good Audio/ Shorthand & WP skills (will Xtrain) you will be using them to full advantage working for 2 partners in newly refurbished offices. Salary £12,000 AAE, for more information call Andrea Timson.

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Finance and Legal Personnel Specialists

LIAISON TO M.D.
£12,500 - £14,000

A mature person with a sound knowledge of Computers, systems/WP packages & a background in Credit Control.

Duties include taking minutes of meetings, liaising with the M.D. dealing with day to day correspondence and to handle and communicate at all levels.

A good salary, private health care and pension scheme available from this first class Office Equipment company.

Please telephone quoting Ref: FG 158.

SPANISH-SPEAKING PA/SECRETARY IN MARKETING

£14,000 + benefits

Intelligent, diplomatic and supremely well-organised person required for a challenging role as 'Right Hand' to the Managing Director of a world-famous international company. Total involvement guaranteed as he will require you to deputise for him on his frequent trips abroad. Excellent shorthand/typing skills required together with fluent Spanish.

Call Sharon Landau
FOX RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Tel: 01-499 0415

PA / SECRETARY FINANCIAL SERVICES

A successful Life and Pensions Sales Manager in Sutton Surrey will value first class back-up from an enthusiastic, diplomatic, and outgoing Personal Assistant who should enjoy personal client contact and liaison within the organisation that this challenging post offers. Good secretarial/administrative/organisational skills are essential and the successful candidate will be totally reliable, intelligent and of good appearance. Good salary, salary bonus, success related bonus, 4 weeks holiday, life cover, disability cover and pension scheme. If this is you - please telephone Nick Seal on 01 661 9988

NO AGENCIES

PUBLISHING £15,000

A new publishing company specialising in creating and producing books, magazines and videos with emphasis on the promotional and marketing fields, is looking to appoint a PA to the Managing Director.

The MD's major task is to develop and implement the company's marketing strategy within the first year of operation and you will be responsible for setting up the office, liaising with clients and authors, organising new projects as well as providing secretarial support and as part of a growing company there will be plenty of opportunity for involvement and development.

Previous small business and/or publishing experience would be useful and a flexible attitude is essential. Age 23-28 Skills: 90/60 + WP

HANOVER SQUARE
OFFICE
01 408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER

RESOURCEFUL PA

£15,000

A senior director of this well established, international company is looking for a young and highly motivated PA. A true secretary, with a sense of humour.

Quite simply he needs an intelligent, diplomatic individual whose key role is assisting him in running his varied responsibilities encompassing liaison, effective internal communications and company policies - so an interest in people is essential. Luxury offices and benefits.

Age 25-35 Skills 100/60 Piccadilly Branch 01-629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

TEMPING TIMES

SKIING

Taking the slopes for the first time

Though many glossy holiday brochures conceal the fact, most people appreciate before they start that skiing is a sport. Anyone who even contemplates taking up skiing, as exercise or the basis for a winter holiday, should realize that it requires a level of fitness, commitment and willingness to accept a few aches and pains during the initial stages.

Just moving on skis seems difficult enough at first but given a little application it will all start to fall into place.

STARTING

Most will start skiing on a winter holiday. This means choosing a "ski package" of equipment, lessons and lift pass offered by most holiday operators, and turning up at ski school every morning for a six-day course of lessons which usually amounts to about 20 hours. If all goes well, the beginner should be skiing down moderate slopes quite comfortably, though with no great style, by the end of the week. At this stage the most important thing is that the beginner has enjoyed the experience and is willing to try again.

GETTING FIT

The first need is to get fit, or at least fitter than before you start. Cycling, which employs many of the muscles used in skiing, is excellent preparation, but any bending and stretching exercise

Skiing is sporty, satisfying and a minor sensation for the beginner if those first faltering steps are taken with expert help, writes Robin Neillands

will help. The important thing is to get the body moving and help prevent stiffness once the skiing starts. It also helps to walk as much as possible, run up steps and get the legs in good trim.

Once this tuning-up process has begun, the wise beginner could speed up the learning process with a course of lessons on the local artificial ski slope. There are now more than 100 of these throughout Britain and the address of the nearest slope can be found at a sports shop or from the Ski Club of Great Britain (see Information panel for details).

Private lessons on a dry ski slope will cost about £16 an hour with a qualified BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) teacher. During a course of six lessons the beginner will learn all the basic moves, how to put on the equipment and pick up some of that mystifying ski jargon.

Such a course will also introduce the skier to two considerable impediments — the lift and the boots. Ski boots must be comfortable and fit well and the skier must change them and go on changing them until a suitable pair is found. The various types of ski lifts can be terrifying for the first-time skier, though nursery lifts move at a gentle pace.

CLOTHING/EQUIPMENT

Since these are expensive it's best for beginners to hire skis and boots at the resort, which means you can change them daily if they prove unsuitable. Ski clothing can be borrowed from a friend or hired. However, a selection of good quality, moderately priced ski clothing can be found at C&A, Marks & Spencer or other high street chain stores.

WHERE TO GO

Not every resort is suitable for beginners. In some the runs are too steep, in others the lift pass is too expensive. Impartial advice can be found at the Ski Club of Great Britain or in the *Good Skiing Guide 1989*, published by Hodder & Stoughton for the Consumers' Association at £9.95. The general consensus is that Austria is the best country for the first-time skier. There, the instructors speak English, the resorts tend to be small and friendly, the slopes are not too terrifying and there is plenty to do in the evening, or



Skiing on a "toothbrush": there are more than 100 dry slopes in Britain where beginners can practise

even during the day if you go off the whole idea of skiing.

Suitable Austrian resorts for beginners include Kirchdorf, Kaprun, St Johann-Im-Tyrol, Soll, pretty Alpbach and even fashionable St Anton.

In Switzerland, Zermatt, Wengen and Grindelwald are first class. In Italy, Courmayeur, Cervinia and Santa Caterina are very good. In Spain, Formigal has English-speaking instructors and pleasant runs. In France, smaller resorts such as Les Deux Alpes, Valmorel or Valloire might be better than the great ski circus areas of the Portes du Soleil or the Trois Vallées, while the Pyrenean resorts, such as Bagnères-de-Lac, or St Lary, though very French, do have graded runs and

amiable instructors. Some French resorts, notably Les Arcs and Plaine, still offer instruction in ski-evolution, or Graduated Length Method (GLM), which is said to produce rapid progress.

Many ski holiday companies suggest the smaller cheaper countries — Andorra, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia — for the first-time skier, but this may not be entirely wise; in skiing you get only what you pay for and beginners need first-class facilities and instruction.

START-TO-SKI WEEKS

When planning that first ski trip ensure that the basic elements for good tuition are available; small classes, English-speaking instructors, gentle slopes, plenty of green or blue confidence-building runs. Private lessons are not worthwhile

for the basics but once these have been mastered an hour's private tuition, which usually means with one or two others costing about £8-10 a head, can pay dividends.

One recent addition to the armoury of the first-time skier is the Start-to-Ski weeks now on offer from most of the major ski holiday companies. These include a welcome party, lift pass, equipment hire, small classes, English-speaking instructors and a final test — all the essential elements for that first time out on skis plus the comforting presence of a dozen others in a similar predicament.

Beginners' Start-to-Ski weeks are now available from Ski Thomson, Global Club 18-30, Blue Sky, Intersun, Ski Nat, Pegasus Ski Italy, Ski Club of Great Britain.

INFORMATION

Advice on all aspects of skiing can be obtained from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, tel: 01-245 1033. This is the organization which all serious skiers should join. Apart from good advice, the club offers members a monthly magazine, help on equipment, London clubhouse, programme of ski-related activities throughout the year, and a series of winter sports trips to the Alps suitable for every grade of skier. Annual membership: juniors (under 23) £12, full membership £34, and family membership (parents and children under 18) £49.

Details on ski trips from SCGB (winter arrangements), tel: 01-245 1033. Details on cross-country skiing trips from Inntrevel, Hovingham, York, YO6 4JZ, tel: 065 382 741; Waymark Holidays, 295 Little Road, London SW6 7LL, tel: 01-385 5015.

Snow World, Horizon and others. They cost around £65 on top of the basic holiday price.

Finally, as an alternative to downhill skiing there is cross-country or Nordic skiing. It is much easier to learn and in its own way equally enjoyable. Cross-country ski trips to France, Austria and Norway are available this winter from Waymark Holidays and Inntrevel.

Beginners can get a closer look at the ski scene at the annual SKI-MART exhibition at the Novotel exhibition centre, Hammersmith, London, September 17-18. It will feature all the latest in clothing and equipment, with more than 70 tour operators and tourist offices offering advice on the best skiing areas and suitable trips.

Next week: skiing in France

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By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Golden Ancona is second favourite at 7-1 for Scotland's richest Flat handicap but Easterby also has the 25-1 chance Macbrician in the sprint. "Golden Ancona will be in his element if the ground stays soft, but if it dries up, what about Macbrician?"

The practice of following horses in form received a further boost when Pantienka, penalized 13lb for his victory at Ripon, came storming through to win the Eglington and Winton Memorial Handicap by 1½ lengths. Swingit Gunner threw out a determined challenge in the straight but found 9st 13lb too much of a burden in the testing

Now aged 33, he is in his fourth season to hold a licence. Having had only a solitary winner to his credit in the

preceding three campaigns, he has already had 14 this time.

It was noticeable that Panienka was one of the first to

Guide to our in-line racecard

Swinburn fined
Walter Swinburn was fined £250 by the Yarmouth stewards yesterday for changing his boots after weighing out to partner Cracked in the Carlton Hotel Maiden Sukes.

NT 26 (D,G) C Britain 4-11-0
 6 (C,B,F,F,G) Miss B Sanders
 4-10-13
 Yvonne Haynes 14
 4-10-13
 D Marks 4-10-13
 Kelly Marks
 VERT 21 P Howling 5-10-13 Sarah French 13
 5 (S) OAK 26 (F) G Harwood 5-10-12
 Amanda Harwood 11
 D 12 (D,F,G,S) A Hilde 8-10-9 - Sue Brown 5
 THROUGH 66 (D,F,S) J Winter 5-10-4
 Joanne Winter 9
 R Curtis 4-10-0
 Tina Pile 15
 AIL 10 (C,D,F) D Arbuthnot 4-9-11
 Joanne Goulding 1
 SHADOW 30 (G) A Ingham 4-9-8

SEASON 12 A Moore 4-8-0 Machine Jester 4-8-0
SECRET 7/7 J Gracey 4-8-0
Zoe Davison 7
 1-1 Checkpoint, 5-1 Tarleton's Oak,
 Harry Cowart, 8-1 Aylesfield, 10-1 others.
MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O)
SOLE G Harwood 9-0 _____ **G Starkey 5**
W 28 R Hammon 9-0 _____ **B Rouse 12**
GROOM 33 J Dunlop 9-0 _____ **W Newnes 2**
2 R Smyth 9-0 _____ **Pat Eddery 3**
43 N Callaghan 9-0 _____ **M Marshall (7) 1**
8 C Brittain 9-0 _____ **T Williams 3**
17 J Dunlop 9-0 _____ **G Foster (7) 1**

19 M Stoute 8-11..... **A Kimberley** 4
KINGDOM 19 E Wheeler 8-11 L Piggie (5) 6
APHNE 28 H Thomson Jones 8-11... R Hills 8
N K Brassy 8-11..... I Johnson 2
MCHANTMENT 146 J Winter 8-11.....
NA 44 N Vigors 8-11..... W Howmes 1
SA 21 B Hills 8-11..... A Whitehall (7) 5
ST 29 L Cumani 8-11..... P Edworthy 2
1 Medicosms, 6-1 Rain Burst, 8-1 Daring
ana, 12-1 others.

HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,746; 6f)

10 MAVE 17 (7) R Laling 9-2 A Wynn (7) 5
 20 BUC F-G (5) R Laling 9-2 T Williams 4
 30 FRANCE 20 (CD, F) R Casey 8-5
 40 (D, G) M Tompkins 8-4 W Newsome 10
 50 SPURRY 27 (8) M Usher 8-4 A McGinnis 11
 60 R VOORSKY 7-11
 70 HERRIOR 2 D Wilson 7-12 W Carson 7
 80 EDITION 17 (D, F) R Hodges 7-9 G Hild (5) 12
 90 THIRTEENTH 56 (BF) L Connell 7-9 C Rucker 3
 10 LADY 24 W Carter 7-7 N Gwilliams (7) 12
 11 33 M J Fetherston-Goodley 7-7 R Fox 8
 12 Divine Pet, 4-1 Moon Warner, Vanishing
 13, 8-1 Mazyoonah, 10-1 Jack Boy.

2.1. 1/4. W. R. BOSS at Newmarket. 108
E70.30. E70.10. E150. E250. DF: E22.20.
CSF: C30.01.

5.15 (7) : WARRSHAN. (W R Swinburn
13-5) 2. Jungle Pioneer (W Ryan 10-1): 3
Vault (L Dettori 6-5 fav). ALSO RAN: 14
Malefic (4th). Cossack Guard. 16 Ashbal
Reachable (5th). 20 Zorkos. 23 Asthal
of Bucks. Hythe. Master Plan
Schweeps Time. Vois Tout (6th). 13 rans
NR: Sharpgun. 1/1. 1/1. 4/1. 11. 2. M Stout
at Newmarket. Total: E33.10. E1.40. E30.01.
E1.60. DF: E19.30. CSF: E20.00.
Placepot: E839.10.

Davey & Eyster

Laughing-Missile (12-11), 6 ran. 41, BL 3.
 White. Total: £4.70; £2.10, £1.50. DF
 £2.20. Cmf: £10.38.
 2.30 (2m 11 cn) 1. Glen George (E
 Power, 5-4); 2. Deep Ridge (12-11); 3.
 Pantechnicon (14-1). Diamond Digger (4-
 fav. 4 ran. 81, 21. G Ham. Total: £2.40. DF
 £5.10. Cmf: £12.21.
 3.0 (2m 51 holl) 1. Andrea Dawn (Steve
 Knight, 15-8 fav); 2. Mum's Girl (11-4); 3.
 Rodgers (20-1), 6 ran. 101, sh hd. A
 Turnell. Total: £2.60; £1.30, £1.70. DF
 £4.50. Cmf: £7.12.
 3.30 (2m 11 holl) 1. Some Dream (E
 Sealmaster, 5-2); 2. Perfect Stranger (7-2);
 3. Star Of Winton (15-8 fav). 4 ran. 91,
 sh hd. A Turnell. Total: £2.40; £1.30, £1.70. DF
 £4.50. Cmf: £7.12.

8-1); 2, Foss's Castle (7-2); 3, Beera Quail (12-1); 4, Josely Wales 2-1 fav. 8 ran. 208. DF: 218.10. CSF: £21.30.
4.30 (2m 11 hds) 1, Lesbet (R Vaughan 8-1); 2, Nessara (8-1); 3, Clannwilliam Prince (3-1). Brilliant Favourite 4-5 fav. 8 ran. NR. Benoit, Mescalito Lady, 54, 294. C Wildman. Total: £88.80; £1.20, £1.20, £1.20. DF: £17.10. CSF: £59.18.
Placepot: £274.70.

Guineas this century, has died at his Dunbar home. He was 59.

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When stresses and strains bring laughter

From David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, Seoul

Members of the British men's hockey squad, hoping to improve on their bronze medal in 1984, and growing a trifle bored with life in the high-rise concrete village of Songnam-dong, have been playing "Russian roulette": cold-drink cans, one of them severely shaken, are opened close to the ear. The peals of laughter are unrelenting and the security guards.

What distinguishes these players from a World Cup football team is they all have other jobs and come to the game with a greater sense of fun and just as much dedication as the average industrialized professional. Yet the standard of the Olympic tournament is so high, they, too, have stress.

Richard Dodds, aged 19, a doctor from Southampton with 130 international caps, is a survivor from the team that

Great Britain have the most difficult opening match on Sunday: against South Korea. Yet, the organizers have scheduled the match on the No. 2 pitch, with a capacity crowd of only 5,000, instead of in the main stadium at Songnam which accommodates 25,000. This would have substantially increased

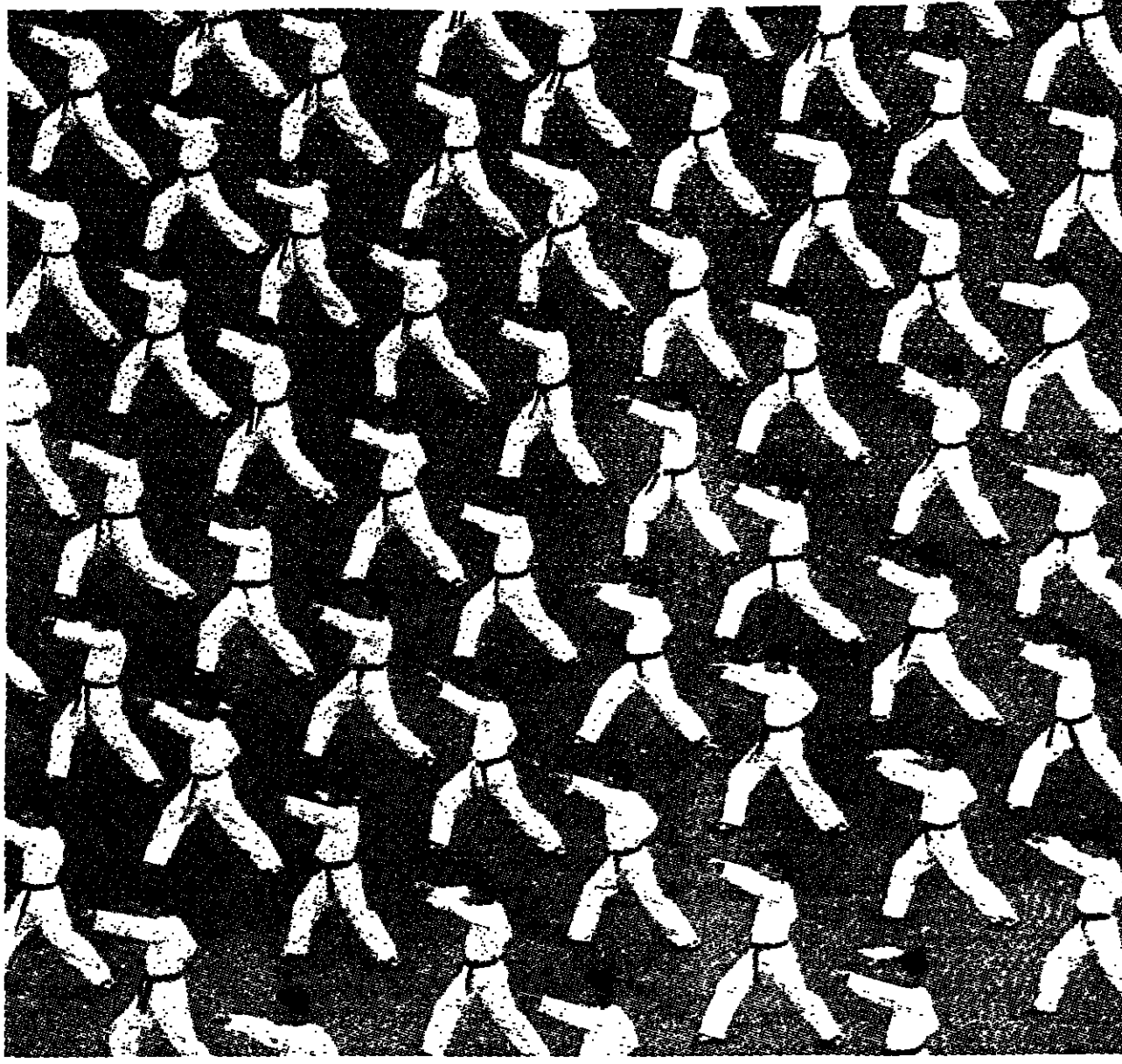
the tension for the British and emotional intensity of the South Koreans. "We're going to have to be at the top of our game in this opening match," Bernard Cotton, the assistant team manager, admits.

South Korea and India are estimated by David Whitaker, the team manager, to be the threat to the top six, whom he considers are Australia, the World Cup holders, The Netherlands, Pakistan, West Germany (never out of the semi-finals of a major tournament in 14 years), the Soviet Union and Britain.

"No doubt this will be tougher than Los Angeles," Whitaker said. "All the teams have improved, and with a rule change on offside, the tactics have altered."

Paul Barber, another veteran from Los Angeles and a Slough quantity surveyor, said: "Ten years ago we would have got together every other weekend leading up to a tournament. Now we're training two or three days a week for two months beforehand."

Ian Taylor, aged 33 and the oldest player and a goal-keeping tower of strength four years ago, reflects on the improvement in standard. "When we played Australia in Los Angeles, they had 33 corners and 72 shots. That means concentrating all the time. Now, because our team has improved so much, I have less to do and it makes it more difficult to concentrate on the less frequent occasions when I suddenly have to do something that may be decisive."



Power with precision: South Korean martial arts players practise their exercises for the opening ceremony on Saturday

END COLUMN

Barnet's prices set new standard

By Paul Newman

If the image of non-League football as the game's bargain basement was still alive, it was surely killed for good yesterday when Newcastle United agreed to pay Barnet £125,000 for Lee Payne, a winger who could not even win a regular place in the GM Vauxhall Conference club's first team.

The deal, which is subject to a medical, breaks the record for a non-League player which Barnet themselves had set earlier this month with the sale of Nicky Bissett and Robert Codner to Brighton for £115,000 each.

If the price for Bissett and Codner was surprising — Barnet had paid Dagenham only £20,000 for Bissett in March and had signed Codner on a free transfer three years ago — the fee for Payne is quite remarkable.

Aged 21, he joined Barnet on a free transfer from Hitchin Town last season and had made only a handful of first team appearances, including just one this season.

In addition to the £125,000 Barnet will receive £20,000 if Payne gets international honours and a share of any further profit if he moves again. The transfer was concluded yesterday at a meeting between Barry Fry, Barnet's manager and Willie McFaul and Gordon McKeag, Newcastle's manager and chairman respectively.

A bargain on a free-transfer

Having sold four other players in recent weeks, Barnet have now received more than £400,000 in transfer fees since the end of last season, when they finished runners-up in the Conference for the second year in succession.

For the last three seasons they have been widely regarded as the best team in the non-League game and despite an indifferent start to the current campaign they remain favourites to win promotion to the fourth division.

On Saturday their team of part-timers — without Bissett, Codner or Payne — won 7-1 away to Newport County, who have retained a full-time playing staff despite their relegation from the fourth division at the end of last season.

Moreover, Barnet reject outright any suggestion that the recent sales are an indication of flagging ambition. Stan Flashman, the ticket tout who has been their chairman for the last three years, said yesterday: "Money has never restricted the club since I've been here. Even before these transfers Barry Fry has always known that there has been no limit on buying players."

League football still the priority

"Getting into the League is our number one aim and we will spend this money in the transfer market if necessary, although at the moment I don't think we need to. Barry Fry has a superb eye for talent and we still have easily the best and strongest squad in non-League football."

"We won't be spending the money on the ground because we've already carried out extensive improvements and it's virtually up to League standards. We're all ready to do a Wimbledon."

The semi-professional game has always been a deep well of talent — John Barnes, John Aldridge and Chris Waddle are just three current examples of players who began their careers with non-League clubs — but it has been only in the last year that prices have regularly started to match the potential of the players involved.

The first £100,000 transfers came last season when two goalkeepers, Lee Butler and Peter Guthrie, moved from Lincoln City and Weymouth to Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur respectively.

Peter Morris, who became manager of Kettering Town in the summer after a long career in the professional game, said yesterday: "I think the trend of first and second division clubs paying a lot of money for players from the Conference rather than the third and fourth divisions will continue. The standards at this level are remarkably high."

Barry Lloyd, the Brighton manager who paid £230,000 for the two Barnet players, said: "Three players I signed from non-League football helped win us promotion last season. There are some very good players at that level and I have no fears about paying this sort of fee for them."

The Times at the Olympics

Two days to the start of the Olympic Games and *The Times* presents the excitement of the build-up to the greatest of all sports festivals. Today on page 44, David Miller offers a profile of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the creator of the Seoul Games, while Simon Barnes and John Goodbody report from the British camp. Tomorrow we will examine the decisions on the host cities for the 1994 Commonwealth Games and the 1996 Olympics.

On Saturday we analyse the leading events in athletics, swimming, equestrianism and tennis, and introduce, in words and colour photographs, the potential heroes and heroines... all with the authority and style for which our sports coverage is renowned.

The Olympics in The Times, the gold-medal newspaper.

Scotland's World Cup campaign begins well

From Roddy Forsyth, Oslo

Norway..... 1
Scotland..... 2

Despite their previous indifferent form and a series of injuries to important players over the past week, Scotland last night began their attempt to qualify the World Cup finals for an unprecedented fifth time in succession when they beat Norway in the Ullevaal stadium in Oslo. Goals from McStay and Johnston were sufficient to overcome an unimaginative Norwegian side although the Scots alarmed their supporters by conceding a careless equaliser shortly before half time.

The Scottish selection, which had been the cause of much conjecture, was reviewed an hour before kick-off and it did not include the Rangers midfielder Ian Durrant, although he had passed a fitness test earlier in the day. Instead, there was a place for Brian McClair, who was able to recreate his

partnership with Maurice Johnston, which had been established at Celtic. The Dundee United forward Kevin Gallacher was also included but in the opening exchanges it was the Scottish defence which was under scrutiny.

It looked as though the intention might be to deploy four players in front of Willie Miller in a sweeper role but it quickly emerged that Miller and his Aberdeen clubmate, McLeish, would mark the Norwegian attacking pair of Sorloth and Fjortoft.

The contest had hardly begun when Norway had an important casualty in midfield where Sundby went down heavily after a tackle by Nicol. The Norwegian was carried from the field after prolonged treatment and was replaced by Berg. Before the home team could settle into its new formation Scotland were ahead.

The move began with a through ball from Miller to Johnston and the striker did well to head the ball down towards McClair. The Man-

chester United player was not well positioned to take advantage of the opportunity but he went for the ball bravely and got ample reward when McStay strode forward to drill a well placed low drive past Thor Sveld.

After this setback it appeared that the Norwegians were suffering from an imagination block and their forward momentum was increasingly halted far short of the Scottish goal. However, as the sanctuary of half time was imminent Scotland undid all their good work in 30 seconds of carelessness. First, Nicol conceded a free kick 25 yards out when he used his elbow on Henriksen. When the ball arrived in the Scottish penalty area only three defenders were positioned to guard four attacking Norwegians.

In the confusion the ball was headed back from the Scottish goal but Fjortoft was allowed space to place a ripping header beyond Leighton.

Almost immediately, there was alarm on the Scottish bench as Johnston fell clutch-

ing an ankle after he had tried to chase an awkward long ball from defence. Fortunately, he was able to continue after treatment and within 15 minutes was instrumental in putting his team back into the game.

The move began with intelligent running by the Liverpool central defender, Gillespie, who showed remarkable close control, which disrupted the Norwegian marking system on the edge of the home penalty box.

McClair was given possession and manoeuvred for a shot but eventually placed the ball inside Gallacher who attempted to stab it across the line. Johnston intervened and the ball spun high past the unsuspecting Thorstved.

SCOTLAND: J. Leighton (Manchester United), S. Nicol (Liverpool), M. Wilson (Dundee United), G. Gillespie (Liverpool), A. McClair (Aberdeen), W. Miller (Aberdeen), I. Durrant (Celtic), captain (Dundee United), S. Berg (Rosenborg), K. Loken (Rosenborg), G. Sorloth (Rosenborg), T. Sundby (Herales), J. Fjortoft (Lillestrom).
NORWAY: E. Thorstved (Groningen), H. Henriksen (Alderslev), E. Johnsen (Bayern Munich), P. Brattseth (Wardar Brannen), A. Griske (Nuremberg), J. Gavidol (Duisburg), S. Brandhaug (Rosenborg), K. Loken (Rosenborg), G. Sorloth (Rosenborg), T. Sundby (Herales), J. Fjortoft (Lillestrom).
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NORWAY: E. Thorstved (Groningen), H. Henriksen (Alderslev), E. Johnsen (Bayern Munich), P. Brattseth (Wardar Brannen), A. Griske (Nuremberg), J. Gavidol (Duisburg), S. Brandhaug (Rosenborg), K. Loken (Rosenborg), G. Sorloth (Rosenborg), T. Sundby (Herales), J. Fjortoft (Lillestrom).

Kent's poker players must win last hand

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent have scored 307 for nine wickets against Surrey. Just before 6 p.m. on an evening of wintry gloom, the Canterbury faithful erupted in noisy acclaim of an awkward squirt for two by the Kent No. 11. You would have thought it was a shot which had won the championship. Come the end of the week, it might turn out to be exactly that.

Kent are in the position of a poker player who must win the last hand when the deal has gone against him. All they can do is aim for maximum points here and hope that Worcestershire somehow fall short against lowly Glamorgan. After leading the table for three months, all but three days, it must come hard to enter the final match relying on such a long shot and their supporters, nervously awaiting a first honour in 10 years, mirrored the anxiety of the players all day long.

So far, so good. Kent's captain, Chris Cowdrey, won the toss on a pitch which was green in the middle and rough at the ends. If Surrey, as expected, had been able to include Sylvester Clarke he

Top of the table

Wickets	P	W	L	D	B	B	P	P
21	9	3	9	51	75	270		
21	9	5	7	57	86	288		
21	8	5	8	58	69	283		

(including yesterday's play)

may well have bowled first. Clarke's reported fitness, however, had been an exaggeration if not a bluff. Cowdrey chose to bat and, with the pitch playing better than it looked, did not regret it, although ultimately it needed an unbroken last-wicket stand of 35 and that precious stroke from Igglesden to confirm the fourth batting point.

Kent have not yet won a four-day match and one reason was transparent yesterday. Whether through tension, or simply because they regarded it as their best option, the bat was wielded with an abandon usually reserved for a limited-overs game. It was good to watch and, to a degree, it was effective but it paid little heed to the time available.

It would, however, be churlish to criticize Simon Hinks in any way. Always a free, upright striker whose attack is more impressive than his defence, Hinks endured a miserable first half of the season, after which Kent dropped him for six weeks. He

played here like a man desperate to make up for lost time.

Benson went early, a bad blow for Kent. Frost, operating at lively speed with a howling wind at his back, removed him with an inswinging. Ward fell quickly to Bicknell but Hinks and Tavaré, who can seldom have played better than he has done recently, seized the initiative.

Hinks passed 50 in 62 balls, greeted Greig with three off-side balls in an over and was eight short of a vivid century when he mistimed a pull and looped a return catch to Frost. Tavaré went on to 60 before being acrobatically caught behind. Suddenly, Kent lost their way.

From 191 for three they slipped to 216 for seven, the impressive Bicknell pegging them back before Feltham stopped them in their tracks with two wickets.

Graham Cowdrey added 53 with Penn but both were out playing belligerent shots alien to the circumstances. It was not expensive, as Ellison, perhaps affronted to be as low as No 10, played with great resolution and found a doughty partner in Igglesden.

Cowdrey later pronounced himself well satisfied with his team's efforts and paid tribute to their spirit in getting out of trouble. He was right, of course, but as they do not have a spinner in their side they will rely heavily today on the ability of their three main seam bowlers to gain them a substantial lead.

KENT: First Innings

M R Benson	bowled	7
S G Wells	caught	12
T R Ward	bowled	18
C J Tavaré	caught	60
R F Penner	caught	25
C S Cowdrey	bowled	34
G R Igglesden	caught	12
15 A Marsh	bowled	0
C Penn	caught	19
R M Ellison	not out	23
A P Lydden	not out	12
Extras	(b 8, lb 6, w 1, nb 3)	18
Total (9 wickets, 89.5 overs)		307

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-56, 3-63, 4-191, 5-202, 6-216, 7-216, 8-288, 9-282.

SURREY: G S Clinton, D J Bicknell, A J Stewart, M A Lynch, D M Ward, M A Fellman, T C J Richards, T A Greig, K T Moody, M Frost, M P Bicknell.

Bonus points: Kent 4, Surrey 4.

Umpires: P B Wright and M J Richen.

More cricket, page 46

US athlete involved in SA tour

From Pat Butcher

Tom Petranoff, the javelin record holder of the United States, has admitted recruiting athletes for a rebel tour of South Africa "as much to help Zola Budd as anything".

And Peter Elliott, here for his pre-Olympic acclimatization, says that South African agents visited him on his local track in Yorkshire.

The South African Amateur Athletic Union has been suspended from the International Amateur Athletics Federation since 1973, and any athlete competing there risks certain suspension.

But the tour has now been called off, according to Petranoff, who claims that "initially I thought it was a genuine attempt to help amateur athletes in South Africa, and for the rest of us to make a statement about Zola Budd. But then I realized that there was South African Government money in it, and I shied away a month ago. But we managed to keep it secret for 10 months."

Petranoff, with the US Olympic team sharing the Nihon Aerobics Centre with the British, said he helped recruit 11 US record holders to go on a three-meeting tour of the Republic in October.

"There was a very impressive group of people prepared to go down there, black and white alike. It had nothing to do with apartheid, we were just tired of administrators telling us what to do."

Petranoff said that there was no British athlete involved as far as he knew, but it was known that South African agents attended the latter part of the European circuit, and Elliott was approached in Cudworth.

Conflicting customs ruffle the spirit of competition

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

The Mongolians have lost their arrows, volleyball officials are watching for drunken referees and Captain Mark Phillips is looking for magpies. Two days before the Olympics start, the fun and the fury behind the scenes have already begun.

Customs officers at the airport angered the Mongolian archery team by confiscating their arrows because they were considered "dangerous material". A diplomatic incident was averted by the intervention of a Korean Olympic official.

At the drug control centre, a manual request has been received from the International Volleyball Federation. Anxious about the possibility of faulty line-calls by tipsy referees, it has asked for random breathalyzer tests.

Captain Phillips has been entertaining journalists with a rendition of an English rhyme. Explaining why he hoped to

see six magpies before competing in the three-day equestrian event, he recited: "One for sorrow, two for joy; three for a girl, four for a boy; five for silver, six for gold..."

With a bewildering array of cultures represented, sensitive feathers are being ruffled inadvertently. Attendees at the Olympic swimming pool have been complaining about the unseemly behaviour of "ill-mannered" competitors who are changing into their swimsuits at the poolsides.

With excitement mounting and nerves strained, there have been casualties. Vicky Roycroft, a show jumper from Australia, offered a New Zealand horse a drink and had her right ear bitten in half. It was stitched together and she still hopes to compete.

Chong Koo Hong, coach of the Yongin commercial high school boxing team, volunteered to act as a sparring

partner for boxers from Swaziland. A few minutes into the session he was knocked out.

A rather more serious assault was inflicted on a local journalist who wrote an article critical of the other services available in certain Seoul hair-dressing salons. He is recovering in hospital from injuries inflicted by 20 angry barbers.

But threats of a more deadly nature have been discounted. Reports that an unknown Korean death squad had slain Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, in its sights were dismissed by his aides.

General Louis Menestrety, commander of combined forces in South Korea, added an encouraging note. Citing intelligence reports on North Korean military activity, he said: "Everything seems fairly calm, there appears to be no immediate threat. I am confident we will have a safe, secure and joyful Olympics."

Injury forces Bile's pull-out

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Fukuoka

The confirmation that Abdi Bile is out of the Olympic Games with an alleged stress fracture of a leg means that all three medal-winners from the world 1,500 metres championship in Rome last summer will miss Seoul.

Bile had not run since the Peugeot Games in London at the beginning of June, when he beat Steve Cram in the 1,000 metres. However, Bile's Olympic withdrawal was announced only yesterday.

Although it is still possible that José Luis González's own injuries could permit him to run the 5,000 metres in Seoul, the Spaniard, who finished second to Bile in Rome, will

definitely miss the Olympic 1,500 metres.

So will Jim Spivey, third in Rome. Spivey failed to win a place at the United States Olympic trials two months ago, but ironically he went on to run 3min 31.01sec, the seventh fastest ever.

Bile went to train in Germany after the London race, and, although admitting he had a foot injury, it did not seem too bad until he decided to go to the United States for treatment a week ago.

1984. Bile was disqualified in the Los Angeles Olympic 1,500 metres semi-final for an alleged pushing incident, which he still denies. The other middle-distance gold medal winner from Rome, Billy Konchellah, will also miss Seoul. Konchellah did not even get to Kenya's Olympic trials.

Tessa Sanderson, the defending Olympic champion, is also looking increasingly unlikely to compete in Seoul, having sustained a cut on her foot three days ago. Sanderson was due to begin her rehabilitation yesterday but was still limping around the Japanese training camp.

More Olympics, page 44

NFL pair punished

New York (Agencies) — The tackle, Leonard Mitchell, of the Atlanta Falcons, and the defensive back, Antonio Gibson, of the New Orleans Saints, have each been suspended for 30 days for violating the National Football League's substance-abuse policy.

This brings to 19 the number of players who have incurred such penalties this season.

Ron Rangi

Auckland (AP) — The former New Zealand rugby union international, Ron Rangi, died yesterday, aged 47.

New driver

James Weaver will replace Mike Smith, who was injured in a helicopter accident on Saturday, in the Dunlop RAC British Touring car championship at Donington Park on Sunday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Travel plans

Oxford University Rugby Football Club left England yesterday for a five-match tour of Japan. They will be joined there by the Australian internationals, Brian Smith, Ian Williams and Troy Coker, who will come into residence next term.

Running back

New York (AFP) — Joan Benoit-Samuelson, the first women's Olympic marathon gold medal-winner at Los Angeles in 1984, has decided to return to competition, after a three-year absence, in the New York marathon on November 6.

Career change

Pat Cowdell, who announced his retirement from boxing after losing his British super-featherweight title to Floyd Havard in May, will start a new career as a boxing promoter in Birmingham on October 10.

Ella considers

Sydney (AFP) — The former Australian rugby union player, Mark Ella, is considering resuming his career with his old club, Randwick. He retired in 1984.

Card players

Richmond's women rugby players are seeking £35,000 to pay for their tour of New Zealand next summer, and aim to earn some of it by selling their own Christmas cards.

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